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3 Saipan casino applications picked up. PAGE 2

10 students top PSS Statewide Mathcourt for primary grades. PAGE 6

Food stamps up on Rota, Tinian

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» USDA Food and Nutrition Service administrator Audrey Rowe to visit CNMI

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and Gov. Eloy S. Inos jointly announced yesterday morning a 62-percent increase in food stamps for Rota and Northern Islands residents and 28-percent hike in benefits for Tinian recipients starting May 1, mainly as a result of some $3 million in carryover funds. Saipan recipients could also get a 15- to 20-percent increase in food stamps, depending on the results of the numbers now being reviewed.

Sablan, at the same time, announced that U.S. Food and Nutrition Service administrator Audrey Rowe will be visiting the CNMI as early as spring this year. That would make her the highest U.S. Department of Agriculture official to step foot on the islands.

A family of four on Rota that receives only $444 in monthly food stamps will start getting $719 next month.

A family of four on Tinian that gets only $444 a month in food stamps will get $568.

Prices of commodities on Rota and Tinian are much higher than those on Saipan. For years, Sablan has been press-

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Gov. Eloy S. Inos, second from right, and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), right, jointly announce increased food stamps for program recipients on Rota, Tinian, and the Northern Islands, during a news briefing on Capital Hill yesterday. In photo are, from left, press secretary Angel Demapan, Nutrition Assistance Program administrator Walter Macaranas, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Laura Ogumoro, Inos, and Sablan.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Mayor Flores to run as independent

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores declared his re-election bid late afternoon yesterday at the U.S Armed Forces Memorial in San Jose. He will run as an independent.

"The title 'mayor of Saipan' comes with many challenges and expectations from the general public. When I first came into office, I inherited a financial debt from my predecessors that my office continues to pay," Flores said.

Despite these obstacles and challenges, Flores said that they continue to persevere and serve the community.

"Recently, the Office of Insular Affairs awarded the Mayor's Office a grant of $413,000 to purchase heavy equipment," Flores said. "With this grant money, I intend to immediately procure the much needed equipment that will enable my office to address various village concerns and serve our community effectively and efficiently. I am humbly asking for the public's patience while awaiting for our equipment to arrive."

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JAYSON CAMACHO
Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores announces his re-election plans as an Independent candidate.

FBI agent testifies how Romero's body was found

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The second day of the trial of murder suspect Joseph A. Crisostomo went into the gruesome details of the finding of the body of murdered bartender Emerita R. Romero at the derelict La Fiesta Mall in As Matuis on Feb. 7, 2012.

Testifying as the CNMI government's first witness, Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent Haejun Park related yesterday how he and FBI special agent Joseph Auther found Romero's decomposing body inside a small room at the aban-

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OPINION METER
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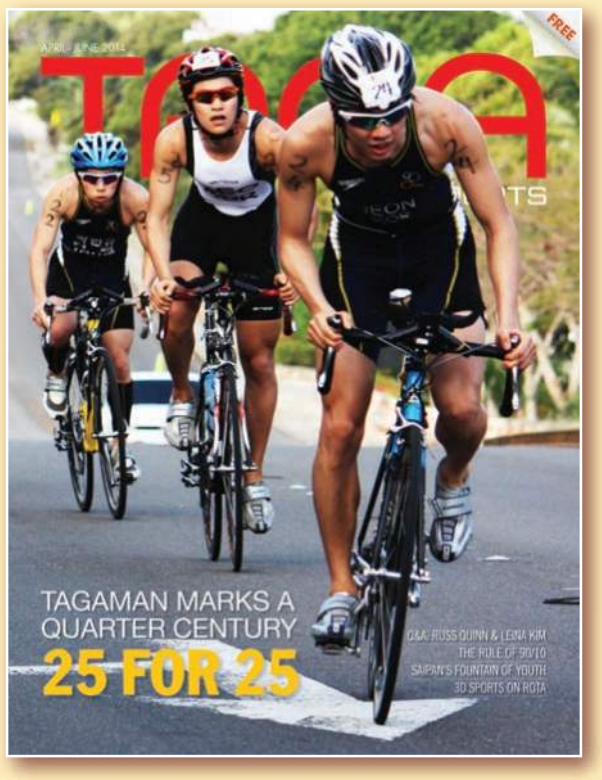
INSIDE

BUSINESS

A big drop in customer complaints helps U.S. airlines post their best ratings ever. ➤ PAGE 13

ASIA

The defense chiefs of China and the U.S. face off over territorial disputes. ➤ PAGE 15



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Local

3 Saipan casino applications picked up

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that video lottery "is taking a back seat" for now as the CNMI moves forward with electronic gaming and Saipan casino. Three entities have so far picked up an application package for an exclusive casino license operation on Saipan, but none has turned in a completed application with a $1 million nonrefundable fee.

"Three [Saipan casino] applications were picked up under individual names but I'm sure they are agents of the potential investors," the governor said in an interview after a joint news briefing with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) regarding increased food stamps for Rota, Tinian, and Northern Islands residents.

Inos added that he does not expect these investors to turn in completed application packages until the last minute.

"They have until April 21," he added.

The $1 million nonrefundable application fee will be used to investigate each investor applicant.

Any interested investor also has to deposit $30 million in license fee "by May 5, 2014."

The governor earlier said he expects that investors from Korea and Hong Kong, including the new owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino—Mega Stars Overseas Ltd.—would apply for an exclusive license to operate a casino on Saipan.

While the application form is a general document, Inos said it's the business plan that would require more details.

An exclusive Saipan casino resort developer license will be valid for 40 years. The qualified investor needs to invest a minimum and initial $2 billion, inclusive of the casino and hotel-resort with at least 2,000 guest rooms.

Qualified applications will be evaluated on three broad factors: financial structure, 40 percent; proposed business plan, 40 percent; and benefit to community, 20 percent.

For several years, casino gaming was legal only on Tinian and Rota. This has changed when Inos signed a House Saipan casino bill on March 21, and its amendment bill on April 1.

As for electronic gaming, the governor said two applications for licenses were received. They are now "under review."

"I think the video lottery is taking a back seat here because we want to get the electronic gaming up and running right away," Inos added.

Electronic gaming machines are allowed only in hotels on Saipan with at least 100 rooms or, if they have fewer than 100 rooms, should be attached to a golf course.

Under the law, electronic table games include poker, roulette, Baccarat, craps, big wheel, slot machines, pai gow, sic bo, and any variations or composites.

Video lottery terminals, meanwhile, are strictly limited to golf resorts, hotels that have at least 100 rooms, or at any airport departure area that is accessible to departing passengers only.

Tinian lawmakers OK $2 to $5 vehicle fee

The four-member Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation passed last week a measure imposing a Tinian vehicular environmental impact fee of $2 for every tourist that rides on scooter rentals and $5 for each tourist that rides on rental cars, all-terrain vehicles, tour buses, or vans.

A similar bill was previously vetoed by the governor but Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian) said he took into consideration the governor's concerns to make the bill a more workable and acceptable one.

Conner's House Local Bill 18-47, Draft 1 passed the Tinian delegation by a vote of 4-0. It now goes to the governor for action.

Fees collected from the bill, once enacted into law, will be used for the Tinian Tourism and Beautification Revolving Fund for the development, improvement, and maintenance of various cultural and historical sites on Tinian.

The proposed fee will be collected by the business vendor for every customer who rides on roads in a tour bus or van, and who use scooters or ATVs on Tinian and Aguiguan.

The proposed fee will be assessed for each individual, "no more than one time per visit, up to 30 days."

The fees collected are to be considered locally generated revenue and as such, will be managed exclusively by the Tinian Treasury. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

FOR NOT CALLING JOB APPLICANTS

Labor sanctions company with $2K fine

For not calling U.S. citizen or permanent resident applicants for commercial cleaner and teller positions at RNV Construction, the Department of Labor sanctioned the company with a $2,000 fine, saying the action is bad faith hiring practices.

Labor hearing officer Jerry Cody ordered RJCL Corp., owner of RNV Construction, to post all future job vacancies and job renewals on Labor's website.

When asked for comments about the order, RJCL general manager Lito Villacrusis said he could not understand why employers are being required to call the applicants when the latter are the ones looking for jobs. He said if the applicants are really interested, they should go to their office.

Cody ordered RJCL Corp. to consider all responses posted on the website and to file its "declaration" describing its action taken, for review by Labor Citizen Job Placement Section.

"Furthermore, [RJCL] shall hire such online U.S. citizen and permanent resident applicants when they are qualified and available to work," he said.

The hearing officer warned RJCL that it will be subjected to further monetary sanctions if it fails to comply with the order.

Cody said it was established at a Labor compliance agency case hearing on March 19 that RJCL posted vacancy notices on Labor's website for several job positions in December 2013. The positions were for a bookkeeper, construction workers, commercial cleaners, and tellers.

For the bookkeeper post, one applied; for two construction workers, three applied; for three commercial cleaners, six applied; and for two teller positions, five applied. Cody said RJCL did not submit a declaration, or digital response, to any of the applicants.

Labor Enforcement then filed the agency case, charging RJCL with violating the employer declaration regulation and requesting the hearing officer to assess the $2,000 fine.

At the hearing, Cody said, Villacrusis admitted that his company had not filed an employer declaration with Labor about those job applicants who responded to the job vacancies. Villacrusis reportedly stated that he had not known that any response was required.

He said Villacrusis stated that he had delegated the task of reviewing job applicants to his bookkeeping staff and that he had no further knowledge of the matter.

Cody said the employer's bookkeepers simply "waited" for the applicants to contact the company; they did not attempt to call the applicants using the phone numbers listed on the website posting.

Cody said under Commonwealth law, every employer is required to make good faith efforts to recruit qualified U.S. workers, U.S. permanent residents, and CNMI permanent residents. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Warren: Federal grants are what's keeping CUC afloat

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Funding assistance from the federal government continues to help keep the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. afloat.

Financial data that *Saipan Tribune* obtained from CUC show that the agency realized operating revenues of only $90.3 million last fiscal year. Compared to the $98.7 million it spent in 2013, CUC actually incurred a net loss of $8.3 million. This deficit went down to $5.1 million after the corporation earned $3.2 million from its non-operation side.

That same fiscal year, CUC received $11.1 million in federal grants. After factoring in this federal assistance, CUC actually recorded earnings, or a net asset, of $6.059 million.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren confirmed yesterday with *Saipan Tribune* that the agency did not incur a deficit last fiscal year.

"Overall, there was no deficit [in fiscal year 2013]. However, the majority of the grants are for capital items, not operating expenses, so funding is still needed for operations," he said.

CUC's operating loss in fiscal year 2013 showed a significant decline compared to losses recorded in the last four years.

Data indicated that CUC's net loss in fiscal year 2010 was at $9.070 million when it generated only $82.6 million in total revenues versus operating expenses of $97 million. In that fiscal year, federal grants received totaled $5.8 million, resulting in the overall deficit's decline to $3.2 million.

In fiscal year 2011, CUC's operating loss was at $12.4 million (operation loss was at $9 million while non-operation loss was $3.4 million). That fiscal year, total revenue was $92.2 million but expenses jumped to $101.3 million. Luckily, Warren said, federal grants for that year amounted to $13.9 million, resulting in a positive net asset of $1.4 million for CUC.

In fiscal year 2012, CUC generated $95.9 million in revenues. However, operating expenses remained high at $103.6 million, incurring a net loss of $7.7 million. However, because some revenue was recorded under non-operation, which amounted to $2 million, CUC's overall net loss went down to $5.6 million. Federal monies received during this time was $10.4 million but some $7.4 million was deducted as "extraordinary item"—leaving CUC with a net loss of $2.6 million.

Decline in net losses

If federal grants are not factored in, it will show that CUC continues to incur net losses: $9.070 million in fiscal year 2010; $12.4 million in fiscal year 2011; $5.6 million fiscal year 2012; and $5.1 million in fiscal year 2013.

Warren attributed the decline in fiscal year 2013's net loss to the following: "The [Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission] approved a $3.4 million rate increase for the electric division in January 2012. This provided additional revenue for fiscal year 2013. However, maintenance costs for the engines in fiscal year 2013 was about $2.6 million higher than the costs contemplated in the rates, and bad debt expense due to slow government payments was significantly higher than planned," he said.

To cover shortfalls, CUC utilizes proceeds from grants it receives every year.

"CUC has been very fortunate to have received grant funding to assist with engine overhauls and other power plant improvements," Warren said.

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CUC justifies its 383 staff

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The number of Commonwealth Utilities Corp. employees has significantly grown to 383 full-time personnel last fiscal year.

Chief financial officer Charles Warren said the bulk of the number, or 165, are assigned at the power division, while 72 work for the water division. CUC also employs 20 for wastewater, 11 at engineering, and the rest are administration staff.

Records obtained by *Saipan Tribune* show that the current number is the highest personnel count recorded by CUC in the last four years, from fiscal years 2010 through 2013.

In fiscal year 2010, CUC had only 307 FTEs with total personnel cost to CUC of $10.036 million. In fiscal year 2011, CUC's personnel count went up a bit to 325, bumping up personnel cost to $11.001 million. A year later, 17 more employees were added to the CUC workforce, bringing its total FTEs to 341 in fiscal year 2012, costing the agency $12.1 million.

According to Warren's presentation, actual personnel cost in fiscal year 2013 amounted to $11.7 million—an actual decrease from fiscal 2012's cost of $12.1 million. This came despite CUC hiring 41 more personnel that year.

Warren said the additional hires are for the power plants and distribution area. He bared that the agency is now training more workers due to immigration uncertainties that would impact about 30 foreign employees.

In 2012, additional support staff was also hired for the customer service department, which he said is doing a "pretty good job" in reducing customer backlogs. One of that is in the area of receivables and disputes where CUC was able to bring down the disputed account from $30 million to $7 million.

CUC has been criticized for "unnecessary hiring and overstaffing." It has been suggested that personnel and other operational expenses be reduced to prevent rate increases.

But for CUC legal counsel James Sirok, even if CUC cuts 20 to 25 percent of its personnel count, the impact to the rate will be nominal at just 23 cents.

Warren justified the need to keep the 383 staff to continue the progress of the utility agency. "Staffing increase is directly related to the stipulated orders. Example are the SO-certified positions for water and wastewater division that were non-existent before," Warren said.

He also pointed out that CUC's average compensation has remained flat for the last four years. CUC, he said, is in the process of doing a compensation study for its personnel in comparison to other utility agencies with similar sizes of operation.

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MAYOR

From Page 1

Right now, Flores' office is hobbled by having just two heavy equipment that work, a payloader and grader, both of which are over three decades old and are in constant need of repair. "I have the difficult task of maintaining many of our secondary roads in Kagman, Mt. Tapochao, Oleai, Kannat Tabla, San Antonio, Garapan, and the list goes on. My staff and I have been active in the various villages; pruning trees, removing junk cars and debris," Flores said.

He noted that he has supported and promoted programs that have directly benefited the community with emphasis on children, safety, environment, preservation, and tourism.

According to Flores, in 2011 he launched a large-scale tree-trimming project along the Saipan Beach Road Pathway, "which continues to significantly develop the landscape of the island's western beaches."

Other projects that the Saipan Mayor's Office has undertaken are planting flowers in the road medians as well as enhancements to the U.S Armed Forces Memorial.

"In addition, my office secured a federal grant that advanced the Saipan Dog Control Program, and initiated construction of the island's first Animal Control Shelter," he said.

Flores said that there are so many things that he has planned for Saipan, which is why he is seeking a second term.

Programs that have already been administered by the Saipan Mayor's Office are; water delivery, debris cleaning, animal control, marriage ceremonies, coordination of foreign exchange programs, disaster recovery, secondary road repair, maintenance, improvements, tree trimming/landscaping, issuance of IDs, coordination of annual Liberation Day festivities, assistance to indigent families with funeral preparation, and maintenance of various parks.

"I am humbly asking the people of Saipan for your vote of confidence and to afford me the opportunity to proudly serve you once again as mayor of Saipan…I want to extend my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to my wife, my hard working staff, my family and friends but most especially to the people of Saipan who stood by me and placed their vote of confidence four years ago," Flores said. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

FBI

From Page 1

doned mall.

Park also explained the different techniques used to process the crime scenes and the evidence gathered such as footprints, fingerprints, palm prints, hairs, fibers, metal door, DNA swabs, and others.

During cross-examination by defense counsel Janet H. King, Park admitted that nine fingerprints and three palm prints taken from the former mall had no value to the investigation.

Park recalled that the FBI received calls from people and police about Romero being missing in February 2012.

After obtaining information from a cell phone that belonged to Romero, Park said he and Auther decided to search for her at the abandoned La Fiesta Mall on Feb. 7, 2012.

Park said they began the search at the southern part of La Fiesta, but they did not find anything there so they moved to the northern part of the building. That was when they smelled the strong odor of rotting flesh.

Park said he and Auther split up and he proceeded in the direction of the smell, while Auther went to the side where there were trees and grasses.

Besides the strong smell, Park said he also heard what sounded like the buzz of a chainsaw. He said the smell and sound led him to Romero's decomposing body inside what was possibly a restroom. The sound of a chainsaw turned out to be the buzz from the thousands of flies surrounding Romero's body, he said.

Park said he then immediately notified Auther and they decided to call other FBI agents and Department of Public Safety officers in order to get assistance and start processing the scene.

Park said they had to wear protective suits and allowed only certain responders to go to the scene to avoid contaminating the area.

Using oblique lighting techniques, Park said they noticed several footprints going into and from the restroom. He also noticed drag marks running parallel to the footprints, suggesting that someone had dragged Romero's body to the restroom.

Park said they also found some items, such as zories and a baby lotion that belonged to the victim.

At that point in Park's testimony, interim chief prosecutor Brian Flaherty showed several photos of Romero's body when she was found as well as when investigators lifted her body to make her face up.

The 40-year-old Crisostomo remained expressionless as the photos were being shown on the widescreen monitor. At least one juror was seen covering a part of her face with her hand.

The photos showed that Romero's body was fully clothed with short pants and tank top. The corpse appeared to be in a state of decomposition.

When Park found the victim, she was facing down, with the upper portion of her body resting on the wall while the lower portion of her body was flat on the floor. Park said they later lifted the body to check for evidence beneath the body.

Park said they found a piece of cloth wrapped around the victim's neck that was possibly used to strangle her.

When shown a photo of a piece of jewelry in Romero's right leg, Park recognized it as an anklet that the victim's family had identified as belonging to her.

Park said they took four latex prints of the many footprints they found at the scene and sent them to the FBI Lab for analysis. He said the prints were later sent to a foot specialist for further analysis.

Park said they also found several fingerprints but they didn't determine them as related to the investigation of the case.

He said they took out the whole metal door of the restroom to check for palm prints and possible bloodstains.

He said there were a total of 18 possible fingerprints and palm prints, but analysis at the FBI Lab showed that they were not identifiable or gave no assistance to the investigation.

On that same day of Feb. 7, Romero's body was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center morgue, where Guam chief medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola did an autopsy that night. Park said that prior to the autopsy, Espinola collected oral, rectum, and vaginal swab samples for a rape test-kit and analysis. He said a CHC doctor and a nurse took the samples.

Park said it was Espinola that removed the ligature that was wrapped around the victim's neck. He said the ligature was also sent to the FBI Lab.

The next day, Feb. 8, 2012, investigators located the rented Toyota Corolla car that Crisostomo had driven, Park said. He said they processed the car and collected a long hair fiber, several hair strands and other items that were later sent to the FBI Lab.

Park said that on April 27, 2012, three children who were playing at the La Fiesta found Romero's purse in one of the rooms on the second floor of Building II.

Park said he and two DPS officers went to the Department of Corrections on June 4, 2012, to collect footprints and hair samples, and DNA or oral swab from Crisostomo.

During King's cross-examination, Park admitted that the nine fingerprints and three palm prints that they collected at the crime scene were unidentifiable. Park said the results showed that the prints did not match either with Crisostomo's or Romero's.

When asked why the prints were not compared to other people as the investigation only targeted Crisostomo, Park said that Crisostomo was not the suspect at the beginning of the investigation.

Park also disclosed that he took evidence of tire marks found at La Fiesta, but did not send them to the FBI Lab because they had no value or did not match the rented car that Crisostomo had driven.

In the government's opening statements, Flaherty said that Romero was at the wrong place at the wrong time as she rode on a car that she mistook as a taxicab in the early morning of Feb. 5, 2012. Two days later, or Feb. 7, Romero was found dead.

Flaherty asked the jurors to look at the particular evidence—the hair found in a car that was rented and driven at the time by Crisostomo; footprints found at La Fiesta Mall; and DNA.

"All those three pieces of evidence point to defendant's involvement," the prosecutor pointed out.

In her opening statements, King said there was no dispute that on the early morning of Feb. 5, 2012, Romero rode a car near her house and two days later FBI agents found her body. King said Romero, a mother of two children, died of strangulation, a very brutal killing. King said she intends to show that there is reasonable doubt that Crisostomo committed the crime. She said there should be no room for presumption and no room for prejudgment.

King said the government and law enforcements rushed very early at a wrong judgment of guilt against one man only: Crisostomo.

King said the government would present Romero's 911 call that identified Crisostomo's voice.

King said it was Crisostomo's former wife, estranged wife, who identified the voice.

The former wife, she said, however, claimed that she's entitled for the reward money in this case.

King said the autopsy on Romero will show that there was no sexual assault.

She said nine pieces of latent prints were taken all around Romero at La Fiesta and that none of those matched with Crisostomo.

King will continue questioning Park today, Wednesday, at 8:30am.

FOOD

From Page 1

ing the federal government to ensure that food stamps provided to Rota and Tinian households are commensurate to the prices of food and other basic goods on their islands.

A 50-lb. rice on Saipan, for example, is $26.50 to $27.99. The same item on Rota is $37.95 to $38.95.

"This is a very good day," Inos said in a news briefing on Capital Hill yesterday.

Rota and Northern Islands households will now receive anywhere between $215 and $2,569 in monthly food stamps effective May 1, for household sizes ranging from one to 16 members.

On Tinian, food stamp benefits will be $170 to $2,030 a month depending on the household size from one to 16 members.

Benefiting families, Inos said the food stamp increase will also result in more economic activities.

The governor thanked the delegate, DCCA, NAP, and the Department of Commerce for their hard work in making the food stamp benefit increase happen. Sablan, echoing the governor in commending DCCA, NAP and Commerce, clarified that this is still under the food stamp block grant program.

Sablan said once the CNMI becomes part of the national Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP, families here will get as much food stamps as those in Guam. For Rota and Tinian where prices of commodities are much higher than those on Saipan, the benefits could be much more.

Joining Sablan and the governor at yesterday's announcement were CNMI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Laura Ogumoro, Nutrition Assistance Program administrator Walter Macaranas, and press secretary Angel Demapan.

"It takes teamwork," Ogumoro said.

Sablan said funds to pay for the increases are already available in the fiscal year 2014 food stamp grant to the CNMI.

The delegate also thanked FNS' Rowe "for making the decision that will put more food on the table for families who really need help."

Fewer beneficiaries

Macaranas also announced that the number of food stamp recipients has been on the decline because of the minimum wage increases, among other things.

He said there are over 8,400 beneficiaries in the entire CNMI, a drop from over 9,000. Of this number, some 7,760 are on Saipan, 297 on Rota, 335 on Tinian, and eight on the Northern Islands.

The governor said the decline means "the program is doing its work by making sure it goes through the screening process" and that people have been finding jobs.

NAP has been working with the CNMI Department of Labor in ensuring that food stamp recipients make efforts to find jobs.

Sablan said there's "something like $3 million extra in this year's grant in part because the number of people who need food stamp assistance in the Northern Marianas is going down."

"Some of that extra money will pay for the Rota, Northern Islands, Tinian increase. Some of the money will go for computer upgrades and other administrative needs at the NAP office," he added.

Macaranas acknowledged the difficulties Rota residents face when cargo carrying tons of food and other supplies are delayed because of weather and sea conditions, just like what had happened in the past months. In cases like this, he said NAP may give residents two-month benefits.

In responding to the governor's concern, Macaranas said Rota residents, for example, can use their food stamp coupons on Saipan.

From FNS

The announcement came some five hours after the office of Jesus R. Mendoza Jr., acting regional administrator for USDA FNS Western Region, notified Ogumoro that FNS approved the CNMI's use of projected fiscal year 2014 carryover funds to increase benefits on Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands beginning May 1, 2014.

This is in response to CNMI NAP's March 14 proposal to implement differential allotments to Tinian and Rota.

"The increase will be re-evaluated as part of the fiscal year 2015 memorandum of understanding negotiation," Mendoza's office told Ogumoro in a letter.

Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) separately thanked Sablan yesterday for pushing for increased food stamps for residents of Tinian and Rota where prices of commodities are "higher" than those on Saipan.

"And we also hope that in the near future, the CNMI will get as much benefits as Guam does," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Since first coming to Congress, Sablan has been pushing for the same level of food stamp benefits for people in CNMI as people receive in Guam and elsewhere in the U.S.

In January, President Barack Obama signed the Agriculture Act of 2014, containing a $32.5-million program that will put the Marianas on track to join the national food stamp program SNAP.

But Sablan has also always kept a focus on the need for even higher benefits for Rota and Tinian. As a member of the House Agriculture Committee and its Nutrition Subcommittee, which has responsibility for SNAP, Sablan explained at length to Rowe the cost of chicken and rice and other basics on Rota, when the administrator appeared before the Subcommittee.

Sablan and Rowe also met at his office at the U.S. Capitol last week.

Besides the Rota and Tinian benefit differentials, Sablan continues to push for higher benefits for families on Saipan. About $30.5 million of the $32.5 million in the Agricultural Act is available for benefits, but not until Oct. 1, 2015.

IN CASE AGAINST MAN ACCUSED OF BEATING A SENIOR CITIZEN

OAG did not violate double jeopardy clause—Wiseman

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has denied a request to dismiss two of the five charges filed against a 27-year-old man accused of striking an elderly man with a PVC pipe and a drum can on the face and head.

Matt Souneng had asked for the dismissal of two counts of assault and battery, citing the double jeopardy clause, which protects an individual against a second prosecution for the same offense after acquittal; a second prosecution for the same offense after conviction; and multiple punishments for the same offense.

Wiseman ruled, however, that the double jeopardy clause is not offended by the prosecution charging Souneng with two counts of assault and battery, based on multiple and distinct criminal impulses separated by sufficient intervening events.

The Office of the Attorney General had originally charged Souneng with one count of aggravated assault and battery, two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, two counts of assault and battery, one count of senior citizen physical abuse, one count of obstructing justice, and one count of resisting arrest.

Souneng, through assistant public defender Eden Schwartz, asked the court to dismiss one count of assault with a dangerous weapon, one count of assault and battery, and one count of resisting arrest, saying they violate Souneng's double jeopardy guarantees because they are part of the same course of conduct and thus must be charged as a single offense.

The OAG amended the charges, dismissing count 2 assault with a dangerous weapon, count 6 senior citizen physical abuse, and count 7 obstructing justice. Thus, the remaining charges are count 1 assault with a dangerous weapon (using a metal drum can), count 2 aggravated assault and battery, count 3 assault and battery (using a PVC pipe), and count 4 assault and battery (using a PVC pipe), and count 5 resisting arrest.

In denying Souneng's motion, Wiseman said the court must look to the CNMI Supreme Court case interpreting the double jeopardy clause in the context of assaultive conduct in order to determine whether the prosecution charging two separate counts of the same statute for conduct that occurred within minutes violates a defendant's constitutional guarantees.

In this case, Wiseman said, Souneng hit the victim with a PVC pipe on the head and threw the pipe at the victim's back, before running away. This constitutes the first of assaultive conduct, Wiseman said.

After Souneng ran away across the street, the victim chased him around a parked van at least twice before losing sight of the defendant, Wiseman said.

At this point, the judge said, the defendant came out from hiding and hit the victim on the back of his head with a metal drum can cover, causing him to fall to the ground and lose consciousness.

"This constitutes a second violation, with sufficient intervening conduct to indicate a separate criminal impulse as envisioned by the Supreme Court," Wiseman said.

He said the second criminal impulse was separate and distinct from the first, which occurred across the street after significant time had passed.

"Thus, the court finds that the assaultive conduct in this case was not part of a single criminal impulse, and that the prosecution does not violate the double jeopardy clause by charging two separate violations of the same statute," the judge said.

According to police investigation, that incident happened on Nov. 24, 2013, in Koblerville, when without warning, Souneng struck the victim with a PVC pipe on the face outside the latter's house. The victim ran toward his garage but the suspect threw the pipe, hitting him on the back.

The victim grabbed the pipe and chased Souneng, who ran across the road. The suspect picked up a drum can and hit the victim's head with it. The victim collapsed for a few minutes due to head injuries.

Souneng also allegedly pushed a responding police officer in the chest and resisted being handcuffed.

FAMILY AWARENESS WORKSHOP THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Participants pose for the *Saipan Tribune* at the inaugural Family Awareness Workshop on April 5, 2014, at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort. These participants took part in discussing with presenters the negative affects of underage drinking and other youth issues. Over 120 community members participated in the workshop hosted by the Talaabwogh StaR Association.

13 mothers sign up for 'Pinoy Super Mom 2014'

Thirteen contestants so far have confirmed their participation in the "Pinoy Super Mom 2014" competition, according to the United Filipino Organization.

"We are changing the age bracket to accommodate more contestants from 25 years old and above," said UFO president Annamae Adaza.

The contest will highlight the celebration of the 116th Philippine Independence Day's "Pistang Pinoy" on June 14 at the Garapan Fishing Base across Kristo Rai Church.

UFO is looking for 15 contestants on a first-come, first-serve basis, "so you don't have to wait for the deadline," Adaza said.

The competition will give recognition to all mothers who work hard for their family as well as honor women of power, women who are outspoken, can express themselves, and are career-oriented.

Prizes will be $800 for first place, $500 for second, and $300 for third. Along with the Top 3 places, the competition will also have eight special awards, winners of whom will also receive cash prizes as well.

Contestants will be judged based on four criteria: professional costume, which includes dressing up in the uniform of a profession or job, talent competition, evening gown competition, and a question-and-answer portion.

Those interested can get application forms at Saipan Music & Dance Studio in Garapan. Deadline for submission of applications will be on April 30, 2014.

The UFO is well known for hosting a variety of competitions. Past events that it successfully organized include the Miss Pusong Pinoy 2013, Super Pinoy Gay Models in June 2013, That's My Tomboy in December 2013, and the recent Little Miss Pusong Pinoy beauty pageant in February 2014.

For more details about the contest, call or text Adaza at 483-5237, UFO secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, event coordinator/director Ernie Molina at 789-8212, or Ester Sablan at 789-5553. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

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INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB14-DLNR-089

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 02, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

E-BID SUBMISSION IS AUTHORIZED FOR THIS ITB TO procurement@pticom.com NO LATER THAN 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, MAY 02, 2014

"CNMI STATE COMPREHENZIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES."

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK AND SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/SWM14-RFP-001

MARPI LANDFILL OPERATIONS

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies or individuals for the Marpi Landfill Operations, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-210** (competitive sealed proposals) of the Procurement Regulations.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after **March 26, 2014** at the Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Saipan, MP 96950. A mandatory Pre-proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., local time, at the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station on **April 14, 2014**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Enrique Dela Cruz, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Saipan, or fax to (670) 322-2762 no later than 4:00 p.m., local time, **April 21, 2014**.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW/SWM14-RFP-001."** For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposal must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, **April 30, 2014**.

Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, **April 30, 2014**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 30, 2014** and must be received no later **May 9, 2014**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be caused for rejection of proposal.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

The firm selected will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section **70-30.3-245** and must be able to obtain a CNMI Business License prior to contract award.

Procurement of these services is made in accordance with NMIAC Section 70-30.3-210 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Proposals for the project will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1)	**Background and Qualification**	**30%**
2)	**Operational and Contingency Plans**	**30%**
3)	**Equipment**	**30%**
4)	**Price**	**10%**

Technical merit is more important than price and the Government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest proposer.

Award shall be made to the responsible proposer whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to the government taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in this request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

10 students top PSS Statewide Mathcourt for primary grades

» NMI eyes first-ever delegates to national competition in Houston

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This year's overall winners in the Mathcourt 2nd-3rd division pose for a group photo with event coordinators led by Reo Arriola, standing at the back center, on Saturday at Agape Christian School. Winners in this division included Joseph Jimenez, Allia Pillarina, Katie Choi, John Paul Labadan, and Mary Grace Caras.

Ten students from private and public elementary schools emerged winners in this year's Statewide Mathcourt Competition for primary grades, simultaneously dominating the rigorous competitions for both K-1st and 2nd-3rd divisions held Saturday at Saipan International School and Agape Christian School.

Dee Jenkins from Saipan International School was named gold medalist for the kindergarten to first grade division. The silver medal went to Chealzka Navarro from Green Meadows School, while the bronze award went to Jayden Tan from Eucon International School. Fourth and fifth place awards went to Malina Rose Tenorio from Mount Carmel School and William Matthew Cano from Grace Christian Academy, respectively.

In the second to third grade division, the gold award went to Joseph Jimenez from Eucon, while the silver was awarded to Allia Pillarina, also from Eucon. In third place is Katie Choi from Saipan Community School, while John Paul Labadan and Mary Grace Caras won fourth and fifth place awards. These five students bested over 80 other competitors during Saturday's contest held at SIS.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Three of the five winners at the recently concluded Mathcourt competition for K-1st division gather for a group photo with the event's coordinators on Saturday. For the division, overall winners included Dee Jenkins, Chealzka Navarro, Jayden Tan, Malina Rose Tenorio, and William Matthew Cano.

According to Reo Arriola, Mathcourt event coordinator, 61 kindergarteners and first graders participated in the statewide contest held at Agape Christian School, while contenders for the second and third grade division totaled 88 this year. Participants in the statewide contest qualified by winning either one or both of the regular Mathcourt meets.

The Mathcourt contest for elementary has three divisions: K-1, 2-3, and 4-5 divisions. The final rounds for the fourth and fifth division are scheduled next week where the top four winners will represent the CNMI in the national Mathcourt League in Houston this June.

According to Arriola, the top 4 winners in the 2-3 division—Jimenez, Pillarina, Choi, and Labadan—have been invited to compete next week with the 4-5 division contenders.

"For the 4-5 division, we have 87 students that are eligible to compete. Of that, all competitors who meet the minimum eligibility criteria for the Mathleague.org state competition will advance to the state competition, tentatively set for May 10 at San Antonio Elementary School," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Arriola added: "We are tentatively scheduled to send the top 4 students to the national competition to Houston on June 7. We are hopeful that funding will be identified to send our very first elementary Team CNMI to compete in the nationals."

No medals, ribbons

Despite the continued success of the Mathcourt events this year, some parents are disappointed that student winners are not awarded any medals, ribbons, or certificates. It was learned that the same lack of "rewards" happened last year.

"I was a bit disappointed again and feel sorry for the students who are always excited to join competitions because they're aiming for those medals and certificates as rewards," one parent told *Saipan Tribune*.

The parent hopes the Public School System, or any other donors, would find a way to address this concern.

Another parent said that medals and certificates are effective tools to motivate children to continue participating in competitions.

Arriola said that funding is an issue.

"With regards to the medals and ribbons, we share the same disappointment with the parents in not being able to give out medals and ribbons. MathCourt falls under the WPR (Western Pacific Region) umbrella and they handle the acquisition of ribbons and medals and that, yes, we are still waiting for medals from last school year," he said.

Arriola said they were informed that the reason for the lack of ribbons and medals is due to a lack of vendors on island that sell such items.

Red Cross raises over $65K from walkathon

The 28th Annual Red Cross Walkathon last Saturday on Saipan saw 2,512 walkers take part in the local chapter's signature event, which resulted in donations totaling $65,119.73.

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter said the figures were slightly down from last year's 3,150 walkers and over $67,000 in donations.

The school that came with the largest contingent was Oleai Elementary School with 237 students, followed by William S. Reyes Elementary School with 163 students, and Garapan Elementary School with 153 students.

Schools with the largest amount of donations included OES with $10,205.86, Mt. Carmel School with $3,808.50, and the CNMI Head Start Program with $3,610.12.

Students from various schools also raised hundreds of dollars themselves. OES' Isabel Carreon raised the most with $415.56, followed by Mt. Carmel School's Matthew Sablan, $380; WSR's Kyon Manibusan, $376; and San Antonio Elementary School's Alannah Sablan, $366.21. They can choose between an Eco Camp Package or a Sports Package for their efforts.

A certificate will also be given to Bank of Hawaii, while Fiesta Resort & Spa will receive a plaque for their donations and support to the ARC-NMI Chapter.

"Congratulations again to all the students, their families and our partners throughout the CNMI for making this year's event another great success," ARC-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh said.

Hirsh noted that they received a lot of positive feedback from parents and kids for the shorter courses this year. He assured that the 2K, 5K, and 10K distances will carry on in 2015.

Contributions that were collected was a result of the ARC-NMI Chapter's collaboration not only with the Public School System and private schools in the Commonwealth but also with various organizations that joined and community members from Saipan, Rota, and Tinian as well.

"The Red Cross is grateful for the great support from the community and the organizations that helped made this event successful. It's a team effort! Without this collaboration with the various organizations, Red Cross would have not made with this far," Hirsh told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to him, the amount collected from the walkathon will go to their working fund, which finances their various programs that benefit the community, including first aid and CPR certification courses, disaster response, and emergency preparedness.

"Thanks again to all our business partners, donors, school coordinators and volunteers for their dedication to helping the Red Cross. Special thanks goes out to the [PSS] leadership and their support for this annual event. Also extra special recognition to Diana Camacho from Ayuda Network," Hirsh said. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

PH Consulate continues to get Haiyan relief donations

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Merlynn Abello-Alfonso, Philippine Honorary Consul to the Federated States of Micronesia, hands over to Consul General Bayani V. Mangibin the cash donation of the United Filipino Community in Pohnpei and the Pohnpei Photography Club on April 2, 2014.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Merlynn Abello-Alfonso turns over on March 12, 2014, to Consul Edgar Tomas Q. Auxilian the cash donation from Reed Oliver, Honorary Consul of Israel to FSM for Typhoon Haiyan victims. Joining them is Consul Mark Francis C. Hamoy.

The Philippine Consulate General in Agana continues to receive donations for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda). Among the latest is a donation from the Guam Chapter-Association of Government Accountants.

Four of AGA's officers, led by incoming president Rachel Field, called on Consul General Bayani V. Mangibin March 31, 2014, to turn over AGA's check donation amounting to $ 2,698.00. The amount is intended for the Philippine Red Cross for the benefit of Typhoon Haiyan victims in the Philippines.

Dr. Merlynn Abello-Alfonso, Philippine Honorary Consul to the Federated States of Micronesia, also paid a call on the Philippine Consulate on April 2, 2014, to hand over the cash donation of the United Filipino Community in Pohnpei and the Pohnpei Photography Club in the amount of $1,000. The donation is addressed to the Department of Social Welfare and Development for the communities affected by Typhoon Haiyan. This amount was raised from the unified fundraising event of the two organizations in Pohnpei on Feb. 22, 2014. The United Filipino Community in Pohnpei is headed by Russel Figueras, president.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Philippine Consul General Bayani V. Mangibin, second from left, receives the donation from Guam Chapter-Association of Government Accountants. With him, from left to right, is Consul Edgar Tomas Q. Auxilian, Josie Villanueva, Clarissa Roque, Rachel Field, AGA's incoming president; and Vincent Duenas.

Last March 12, Abello-Alfonso again visited the consulate and turned over to Consul Edgar Tomas Q. Auxilian the amount of $297.59 from Reed Oliver as donation to DSWD for Typhoon Haiyan victims. The amount was collected by Reed and his family in their store in Pohnpei for the typhoon victims. Reed is a Pohnpeian/FSM citizen and currently the Honorary Consul of Israel to the Federated States of Micronesia. ***(PCG)***

2 Tinian beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged two Tinian beaches—Leprosarium 1, and Leprosarium 2—and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

NMC Adult Basic Education sets Session IV dates

The Northern Marianas College's Adult Basic Education program, which focuses on meeting the educational needs of adult learners, has announced the following important dates for its Session IV, which begins in April:

- April 7-8: Registration for ongoing/returning students, 10am-4pm, ABE Office in Building T
- April 9-10: Registration for new students, 10am-4pm, ABE Office in Building T
- April 11 & 14: Late registration, 9am-4pm, ABE Office in Building T
- April 14-17: Add/Drop Course(s) Week, 8am-5pm, ABE Office in Building T
- April 15: Student orientation, 5pm-6pm, ABE Office in Building T
- April 16: First day of instruction
- April 25: Late CASAS Assessment Tests (by appointment only), 9:30am and 1pm, Room 2 Building T. ***(NMC)***

Pioneer Guam businesswoman to be honored

TAMUNING, Guam—For the sixth year, First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* are presenting a Lifetime Achievement Award to honor a businesswoman who is a pioneer in her field, who works tirelessly in the community to improve the quality of life on the island and who serves as a role model for the businesswomen of today. This year, the Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Antoinette "Toni" Sanford, owner and cofounder of Sanford Technology Group LLC.

The ninth annual Businesswoman of the Year Maga'haga award program, sponsored by First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine*, recognizes businesswomen who have made significant contributions to their industries and have demonstrated a strong commitment to their community.

The 2014 First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* Businesswoman of the Year Maga'haga Award will be presented at the Businesswoman of the Year gala on Saturday, April 26, 2014, at the Hyatt Regency Guam, in conjunction with the release of the *Guam Business* May/June issue. Proceeds from the gala will fund scholarships at the University of Guam, Guam Community College, and Northern Marianas College. ***(PR)***

Sugar Dock to undergo cleanup, facelift on Sat.

The Division of Coastal Resources Management's Adopt-A-Beach program will be hosting a beach cleanup and beautification event at Sugar Dock beach on Saturday, April 12, starting at 9am for Environmental Awareness Month. DCRM staff, Mount Carmel School's staff and students, and local artists will be cleaning up the beaches and repainting the pavilions. Come join us and help cleanup one of Saipan's most popular beaches.

Keeping Saipan free of litter and marine debris provides residents and wildlife with a healthy environment. Trash can cause injury, sickness, and other dangers to us and our environment. The best way to keep trash off the beaches is to take your trash home.

Due to this event, the Sugar Dock pavilions will be closed on Saturday. So please no picnics or barbecues until after the cleanup and painting. Come back to Sugar Dock on Sunday to enjoy the pavilions. Help us clean up Saipan—see you all at Sugar Dock on April 12! ***(PR)***

WALKATHON VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Battalion cadets help out in the American Red Cross Walkathon on March 29, 2014. The cadets helped out with traffic control and parking from 5:30am to 9am.

Students, Congressional Art Competition deadline nears

One last reminder that the deadline for entries to the Congressional Art Competition is this Friday, April 11.

The Congressional Art Competition is open to Northern Marianas students in grades 9 through 12. Original, two-dimensional art in a wide variety of media—painting, drawing, collage, print, computer-generated art, and photography—is permitted.

The winning entry from each of the 441 congressional districts is placed on display for a year. The art works are viewed by tens of thousands of visitors to the U.S. Capitol.

Previous winners of the Congressional Art Competition have been Rosanna L. Camacho, Bryan Jose Obaldo Deleon Guerrero, Hannah Alcordo, and Krisna Balolong of Marianas High School, and Aaron Tomokane of Kagman High School,

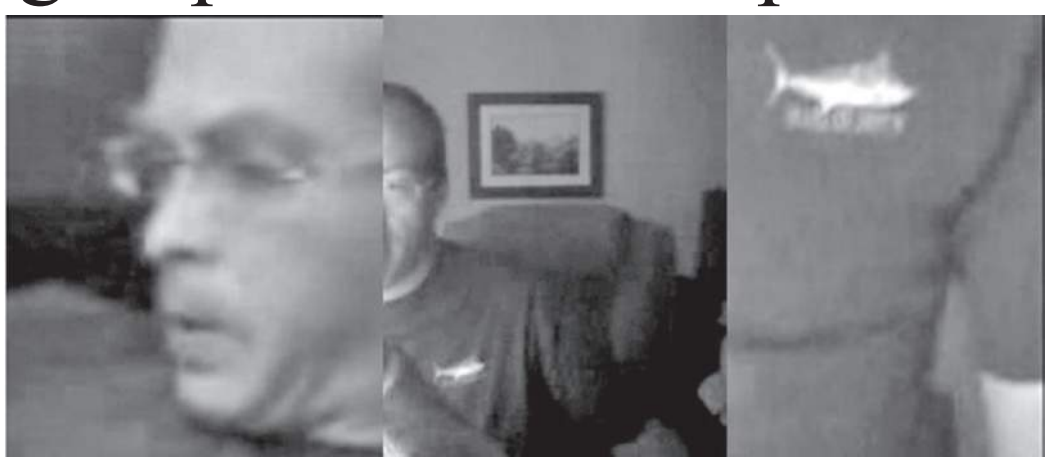
A panel of artists from the Northern Mariana Islands selects the winning art.

Entries should be delivered or mailed to one of the congressional offices on Saipan, Rota or Tinian by close of business on Friday, April 11. The offices are open Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

More information about the Congressional Art Competition is available at http://sablan.house.gov/serving-you/art-competition. Or students may contact Michelle Tenorio at the Washington, DC Office (michelle.tenorio@mail.house.gov, 877.446.3465); Paula Bermudes at the Saipan Office (paula.bermudes@mail.house.gov, 670.323.2647/8); Harry Masga at the Rota District Office (harry.masga@mail.house.gov, 670.532.2647); or Jose Kiyoshi at the Tinian District Office (jose.kiyoshi@mail.house.gov, 670.433.2647). ***(PR)***

FBI seeking suspected child sex predator

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is seeking the public's assistance with obtaining identifying information regarding an unknown male suspected of sexually exploiting a child. Photographs and informational posters depicting the unknown individual, known only as John Doe 28, are being disseminated to the public and can be found online at the FBI website at http://www.fbi.gov/wanted/ecap



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The suspect appears to be a Caucasian male, possibly in his 30s or 40s, with a receding hairline and wearing wire-framed glasses.

Initial images and video of the unidentified adult male, John Doe 28, engaging in sexually explicit activities with a child were first recorded by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in November of 2012. Investigators for the FBI and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children have successfully enhanced images depicting John Doe 28 and believe they contain several clues, which may assist with the identification of the subject. For example, the video depicts the subject and the victim inside a residence with what appears to be a blue sofa chair and a picture hanging on a wall in the background. Additionally, the subject is wearing wire-framed glasses and a burgundy T-shirt with what appears to be a shark logo on his left side.

There are no specific details linking the suspect to any particular state or region of the United States, and both his identity and whereabouts are currently unknown.

The suspect appears to be a Caucasian male, possibly in his 30s or 40s, with a receding hairline and wearing wire-framed glasses. Anyone with information to provide should submit a tip online at https://tips.fbi.gov/ , or call the FBI's toll-free tip line at 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324). The public is reminded no charges have been filed in this case and the pictured individual is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

This individual is being sought as part of the FBI's Operation Rescue Me and Endangered Child Alert Program initiatives, both of which represent strategic partnerships between the FBI and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Operation Rescue Me focuses on utilizing clues obtained through in-depth image analysis to identify the child victims depicted in child exploitation material, while ECAP seeks national and international media exposure of unknown adults (referred to as John/Jane Doe) who visibly display their faces and/or other distinguishing characteristics in association with child pornography images. ***(FBI)***

Palau workers, BNH cases negative for avian influenza

Confirmatory test results of samples taken from PMA farm workers and patients at the Belau National Hospital have returned negative for avian influenza (bird flu). The results were received by the Ministry of Health on April 5, 2014, from a reference lab in Hawaii; however, further testing on samples taken from the dead chickens will be conducted in the U.S. mainland.

While results are awaited and investigation continues to determine the birds' possible causes of death, the public is urged to refrain from using and consuming PMA poultry products until investigations have concluded.

Furthermore, as seasonal flu cases remain high, the public is also reminded to continue practicing hygienic habits, including proper hand-washing and coughing etiquettes to minimize the spread of the flu.

Additional updates will be provided as soon as they are available.

This advisory arises from an incident that occurred in Palau on Monday, March 31, 2014, when over 300 chickens were reportedly dying off at a local poultry farm in Airai. A response team composed of members from the Ministry of Health, Bureau of Public Safety, Bureau of Agriculture, Koror State Veterinary, and the U.S. Civic Action Team was deployed to investigate and quarantine the farm. Several poultry workers had complained of flu-like symptoms and samples were collected from the workers as well as from the dead birds for influenza testing.

The samples from the farm workers as well as a few collected from flu patients at the Belau National Hospital were sent off to a reference lab in Hawaii for confirmatory avian influenza (bird flu) testing. Meanwhile, investigation continued locally for other possible causes of deaths of the birds.

At the moment as the press release states, all human samples sent have tested negative for avian influenza and results of confirmatory testing of the dead bird samples are being awaited from a USDA lab in Iowa. The public has been advised to refrain from consumption and use of poultry products from the affected farm until investigations have concluded. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 5th birthday to our only princess, KaiLani K. Laniyo, and to our baby sister/aunt, Tarshia L. Olopai, who are both celebrating their special day today, April 9! God bless always, enjoy, and much love from the KaiLani clan.

Nearly $13M available to assist small drinking water, wastewater systems

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is awarding $12.7 million in grants to help small drinking and wastewater systems—those serving fewer than 10,000 people—and to private well owners. The grantees will provide training and technical assistance to improve small system operations and management practices, promote system sustainability and support EPA's mission to protect public health and the environment.

"Small systems comprise the vast majority of our nation's public water systems and it is a priority for EPA to help them to meet drinking water quality standards and provide clean water to communities," said Nancy Stoner, acting assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Water. "This funding and technical assistance supports EPA's continuing efforts to promote sustainability and public health protection for communities served by small systems."

The awards will include:

■ $4.5 million each to the National Rural Water Association and the Rural Community Assistance Partnership to help small public water systems across the country to achieve and maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

■ $2 million to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to improve the financial and managerial capabilities of small public water systems across the country.

■ $1.4 million to the National Rural Water Association to improve operational performance at small publicly-owned wastewater systems and decentralized wastewater systems, thereby improving public health and water quality.

■ $300,000 to the Rural Community Assistance Partnership to inform private drinking water well owners about protecting their drinking water supply and improving water quality.

More than 97 percent of the nation's 157,000 public water systems serve fewer than 10,000 people, and more than 80 percent of these systems serve fewer than 500 people. Many small systems face unique challenges in providing reliable drinking water and wastewater services that meet federal and state regulations. These challenges can include a lack of financial resources, aging infrastructure and high staff turnover.

For more information on EPA's programs and tools to help small water systems, visit: http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/sdwa/smallsystemsrfa.cfm. ***(EPA)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 9, 2006

MVA: Exempt us from wage cuts

The Marianas Visitors Authority has asked the Fitial administration for exemption from possible wage cuts. During the MVA board meeting Wednesday, the MVA management said it sent a letter to Finance Secretary Eloy Inos, outlining its concerns about the proposed 10-percent reduction. MVA has also asked Inos for exemption from the proposed employee work-hour reduction. This plan, however, has already been abandoned by the Fitial administration, citing difficulty in implementation. Instead, the administration asked the Legislature to introduce legislation to implement a 10-percent salary cut among government employees.

The islands' biggest Easter egg

It's humongous. It's spectacular. It's colorful. Not exactly the words you would use to describe an egg but local visitors and tourists had no other words for it when they saw the Easter egg on display at the lobby of the Fiesta Resort & Spa since Friday after Fiesta's F&B director Jimmy Kok said the hotel mounted the display at the hotel lobby as part of the upcoming Easter Sunday celebration in the CNMI on April 16. Jimmy is encouraging visitors and guests to have their pictures taken with the largest Easter egg on the island. He said the concept for the Easter egg display was executed in collaboration with the hotel's Engineering Department. To complement the display, an Easter Bunny will join guests for fantastic photo souvenirs with their families.

April 9, 2007

'Customers are not without fault either'

Bombarded with customer complaints and billing disputes, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. says customers are not without fault either. CUC executive director Anthony C. Guerrero expressed the utility's grievances against customers in a recent letter to the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications. According to Guerrero, most customers who express dissatisfaction about CUC—either through the media or to lawmakers directly—are not telling all the details of the problem. However, CUC cannot set the record straight because it is not allowed to disclose customer information to anyone except the person owning the account.

Norita cites 'illegal' board meeting

Outgoing Commonwealth Ports authority executive director Clyde Norita has accused his board of holding an "illegal" meeting Monday last week. "I came to join their meeting that day but the chairman said I was not supposed to be there because it's just for them. It was the majority of the board meeting, discussing CPA issues, without a public notice. That's illegal," said Norita. Board chair Rex Palacios did not return a call when reached for comments yesterday. In a special meeting Thursday, board member Barbara Yamada, who chairs the board personnel committee, mentioned of a Monday meeting. "There's really a meeting. The board member [Yamada] even said that during the [Thursday] meeting," said Norita, who issued his resignation letter on Wednesday.

April 9, 2008

OPA: SHEFA funds misused

Officials in charge of the Saipan scholarship program have misused public funds through questionable hiring and improper payments to board members, the Office of the Public Auditor has found. OPA conducted a review of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program at the request of Rep. Justo S. Quitugua. In its report, Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan questioned SHEFA's hiring practices. He said the agency hired two contractors where it appears that it should have hired employees.

'Status proposal won't prevent federalization'

A staffer at the U.S. Senate says there is no stopping the passage of legislation that will place the Northern Marianas under federal immigration control. Bill Wicker, communications director of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, said that not even a local proposal to grant permanent immigration status to long-time guest workers would make the senators change their minds. "No, not at this point," Wicker said, when asked if the proposal, now circulating informally in the Commonwealth, might cause Congress to reconsider its imminent approval of the federal immigration bill.

Bank of Guam, Palau ink home financing program

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam, the National Development Bank of Palau, the Palau Housing Authority, and the Republic of Palau's Minister of Finance signed the Belau Real Estate Financing Program on April 1, 2014, signifying the first and only private financial institution Real Estate Financing Program in Palau. The financing program was in the form of a memorandum of agreement entering into a public-private agreement for the first and only private institution residential real estate program in the Republic of Palau.

Lou A. Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam president, board chair and chief executive officer, signed for the bank and President Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., signed for the Republic of Palau.

Designed to promote affordable home ownership for Palauans, the program provides from $30,000 to $100,000 for both first-time and non-first-time homeowners. First-time homeowners may include energy efficient appliances and furniture in the loan. Non-first-time homeowners may include energy efficient appliances in the loan.

"This first-ever program in Palau between public and private sectors emphasizes Bank of Guam's traditions of providing improved standard of living and opportunity to the people of the regional island markets we serve," said Leon Guerrero. "Both President Remengesau and I continue to work closely to improve the overall economic well being of Palau and the quality of life for its people. We thank President Remengesau and the community of Palau for their continued confidence and support of Bank of Guam as their financial partner." ***(BOG)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Palau President Tommy Remengesau Jr., seated left, shakes hands with Lou A. Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam president, chief executive officer and board chair, after the signing ceremony. Others in photo are, standing from left to right, Sen. Raynold Oilouch, 9th OEK, floor leader; Frida Delamu, executive director, Palau Housing Authority; Sandra D. Mincer, CEO, National Development Bank of Palau; Matthew C. Cruz, vice president/Bank of Guam Palau Branch manager; Sabino Anastacio, president, House of Delegates, 9th OEK; and Mike Naholowaa, Bank of Guam vice president, credit officer.

WELCOME HOME!

Capt. Arnold Arizala has his picture taken with his family soon after he arrived in Guam on Friday night after more than eight months in Afghanistan, where he served as part of a highly specialized team tasked with handling all contracting actions in the Afghanistan area of operations.

Sgt. Robert Bamba Bamba has his picture taken with his family after arriving in Guam Friday night. This is the first time Bamba has been home since he left as a member of Task Force Guam's Delta Company for a 10-month deployment last year. Bamba is currently receiving medical care for injuries he received while deployed.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Coast Guard searching for a skiff swept out to sea near Ujae Atoll

HONOLULU—The Coast Guard is searching for a skiff with two people aboard near Ujae Atoll.

Watchstanders at Joint Rescue Coordination Center Honolulu received notification from the Republic of Marshall Islands Sea Patrol Office Saturday afternoon that two people had been swept out to sea aboard a 12-foot skiff.

The skiff originally had four people aboard transiting from Ujae Atoll to Bock Island when the engine reportedly failed.

Two men jumped overboard and swam back to Ujae while the remaining two stayed aboard the vessel.

Strong winds reportedly swept the skiff out to sea before the men could restart the engine.

An HC-130 Hercules airplane crew launched from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point at 7:10pm Saturday. The Hercules crew arrived on scene at 4:43pm Sunday and dropped two self-locating datum marker buoys in the projected search area.

The Republic of Marshall Islands' Pacific Patrol Boat RMIS *Lomor* and AMVER vessel *Mell Seringat* are also assisting in the search.

AMVER, sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard, is a unique, computer-based, and voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea. With Amver, rescue coordinators can identify participating ships in the area of distress and divert the best-suited ship or ships to respond. ***(USCG)***

UOG alumna receives prestigious research fellowship

Laurie Tumaneng, a 2013 University of Guam graduate with a double major in Political Science and Sociology, has been awarded the 2014 National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship Program Fellowship. The fellowship, which pays a stipend of $32,000 per year for up to three years, selects students based on "outstanding abilities and accomplishments, as well as potential to contribute to strengthening the vitality of the U.S. science and engineering enterprise."

Tumaneng

"We are proud of Laurie's achievement of this prestigious Fellowship," said Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez, interim senior vice president of Academic and Student Affairs, UOG. "This is attributed in no small part to her incredible advancement pursuits and dedicated faculty mentors at the University of Guam."

Tumaneng, who had been previously awarded a full scholarship to complete her doctorate in political science at Pennsylvania State University, is also a 2013-2014 American Political Science Association Minority Fellowship Award recipient. ***(UOG)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Egypt must change its repressive ways

Nine months after Egypt's armed forces overthrew the country's democratically elected president, the leader of that coup has announced that he will seek the presidency in elections next month. But even if army chief Gen. Abdel Fattah Sisi receives an overwhelming mandate from voters, he won't be able to restore prosperity and stability to the country if the government continues to repress and imprison political opponents. The United States should use its limited but real influence with Egypt to press Sisi to abandon his siege mentality and open a dialogue with opposition groups.

Superficially, Sisi's resignation as defense minister and announcement that he will run for president seem like a case of "Back to the Future" for Egypt. Before Mohamed Morsi, the candidate of the Muslim Brotherhood, was elected president in 2012, Egypt had been governed by a series of presidents with roots in the armed services. But Sisi may be deluding himself if he believes he can rule as imperiously as his predecessors did, denouncing political opponents as terrorists and cracking down on dissent. No doubt many Egyptians were disillusioned by Morsi's incompetence and high-handedness, but the Arab Spring released a desire for political reform that can't be permanently stifled.

Yet instead of engaging the opposition and embracing political pluralism, the Egyptian government has pursued a scorched-earth policy. The Muslim Brotherhood has been designated a terrorist organization, Morsi has been charged with criminal offenses, and the government has moved against activists, bloggers, filmmakers and journalists. Last month, 529 defendants were simultaneously sentenced to death in connection with the death of a police officer. In what might be the understatement of the year, a State Department spokesperson said it "defies logic" that a two-day trial involving so many defendants could satisfy international standards of due process.

On Thursday Egypt's interim government approved harsher penalties for "terrorism-related" crimes, ostensibly in response to violent attacks on army and police forces. But such measures won't make Egypt more secure in the long run if the government relentlessly punishes and isolates its critics. And if the country isn't secure, its economy (including the tourist business) will suffer.

The Obama administration repeatedly has urged the Egyptian government to seek political dialogue and has tried to exert leverage by withholding some economic and military assistance. But administration officials have indicated that they want to resume the delivery to Egypt of some military equipment, including Apache helicopters that would be used in anti-terrorist activities in the Sinai Peninsula, an increasingly lawless area adjacent to Israel. Before the current restrictions on aid are lifted, the U.S. should insist that the Egyptian government change its repressive ways.

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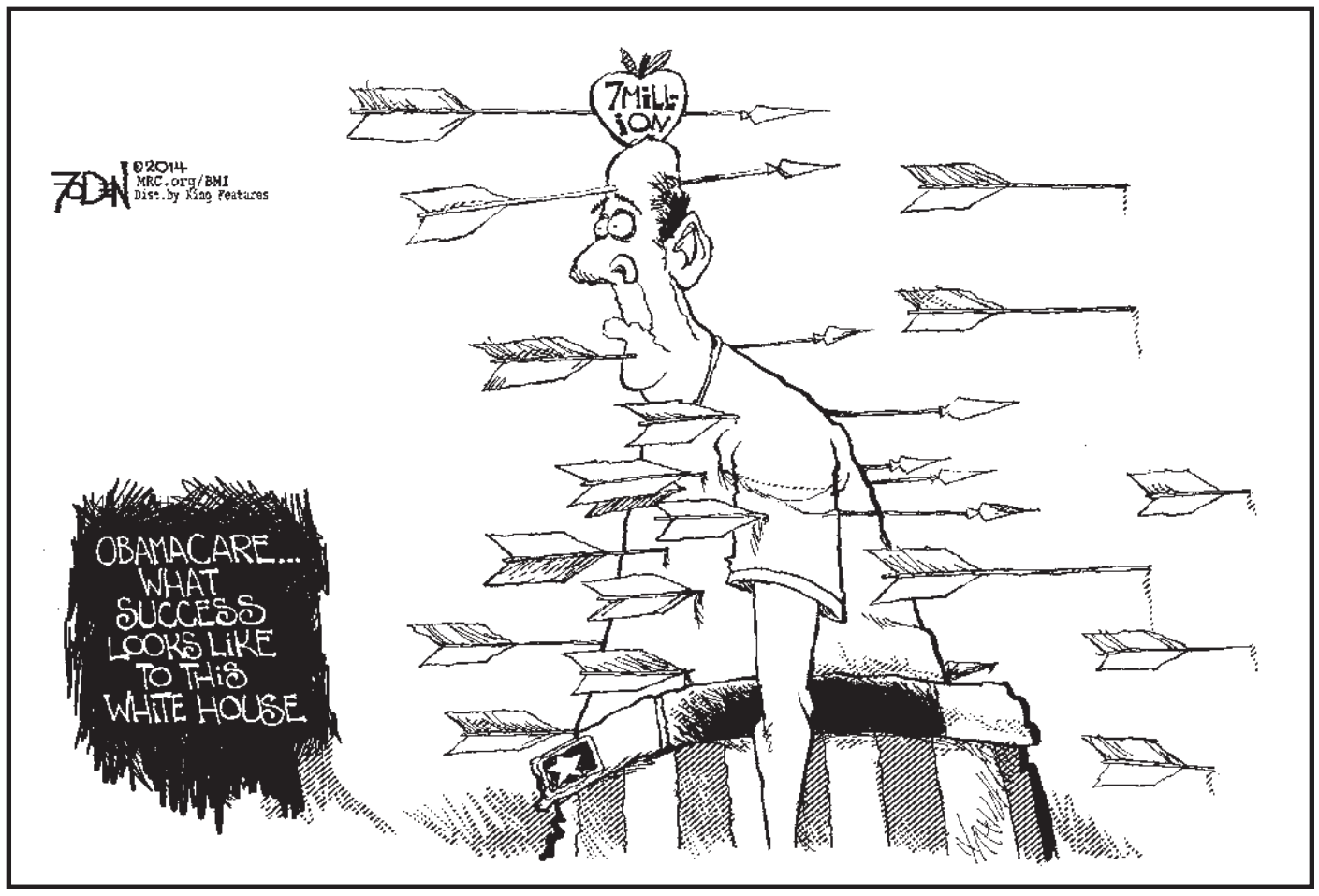


Is Obamacare too big to fail?

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com*

When Obamacare's first open-enrollment period ended last week, the tally was impressive: 7.1 million Americans signed up for insurance on federal and state exchanges by the March 31 deadline, several million more signed up for Medicaid and a whole lot of under-26 Americans got covered by their parents' plans.

Those numbers represent a significant political victory for Democrats, making it highly unlikely that Republicans will be able to deliver on their promise to repeal the law.

"You're not going to turn away 7 (million) or 10 million people from insurance coverage," crowed Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., the No. 2 Democrat in the Senate. "Doesn't work anymore."

That doesn't mean Obamacare is guaranteed to succeed. The program still faces a series of difficult tests—most important, keeping costs under control so insurance premiums don't soar in coming years.

And the program is certain not to be universally popular with its participants. Just think: Millions of newcomers to health coverage are about to join the rest of us in those frustrating battles with insurers.

But the enrollment numbers do mean that the main argument Republicans hurled against the law—that it was doomed to collapse—is looking weaker than ever.

They also mean that Democrats now have a chance to shift the healthcare debate from whether the law should be repealed to how to improve it. Recent polls have found that between 53 percent and 71 percent of respondents (depending on how the question is worded) favor keeping the law and fixing it.

The White House has already tinkered with the law administratively to soften some of its most unpopular provisions, enraging Republicans, who have accused President Obama of unconstitutional actions to save his most important domestic achievement. For example, the president has twice delayed implementing the requirement that employers with 50 or more employees offer health insurance.

And it's not impossible that the law could be modified, with congressional approval, to scrap the mandate on companies with fewer than 100 workers.

But the biggest, most interesting change that some Democrats have proposed is a new, lower tier of health insurance policies for people who think the premiums on the standard Obamacare plans are too high.

The current version of Obamacare offers four levels of insurance—platinum, gold, silver and bronze—with many different prices. The plans are similar in the services they cover but different in the way they charge.

Platinum and gold plans charge high premiums up front, but they offer lower co-payments (the amount a patient pays for a visit to the doctor) and lower deductibles (the amount a patient pays before insurance kicks in). Bronze plans charge lower premiums but exact a higher cost later on, through higher co-payments and deductibles.

But when Obamacare enrollment started last fall, some consumers who previously held only "catastrophic" insurance—plans that cost relatively little but also don't pay for much until a big deductible is met—complained that all the new policies cost too much up front. In response, Sens. Mark Begich, D-Alaska, and Mark Warner, D-Va., proposed a new tier of "copper" insurance plans with lower premiums, and correspondingly skimpier coverage in terms of higher deductibles and co-payments.

Some health advocates have criticized the proposal, arguing that it would seduce thrifty consumers into low-cost policies that don't deliver much, and could even deter patients from visiting their doctors because of the higher co-payments they would face.

But Begich, Warner and others argue that a copper plan would expand the choices available to Obamacare buyers, and that, as long as the trade-offs are clear, consumers who want a catastrophic plan ought to have that option. They point to insurance industry studies that suggest that adding a lower-price plan to the mix could drive down costs overall, by increasing the number of willing consumers and competition.

One thing Democrats aren't proposing: changing the list of medical conditions that are covered by Obamacare policies. Economists note that one way to lower costs would be to offer plans that don't cover, for example, maternity care or mental health care. "But that would be a minefield," one congressional aide noted.

So what will Republicans do now?

They're trapped in a corner of their own making. GOP leaders say their position now is to "repeal and replace" the health-care law. But more than four years after Obamacare became law, they still don't have a consensus proposal for what that replacement would look like.

There are plenty of conservative ideas out there, of course. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal has proposed a plan that would replace Obamacare with a $100 billion fund for state insurance plans to cover people with preexisting conditions. (It would also turn Medicare into a voucher program.) Three Republican senators have proposed a plan that would give low-income taxpayers a tax credit for health insurance costs and guarantee continued coverage for people with preexisting conditions.

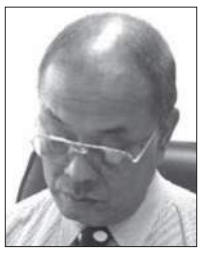
But if 10 million people or more have gained health insurance thanks to Obama's long-derided law, they're going to want to see a fully fleshed-out replacement before they jump ship. The Republicans haven't provided one, and that's a prescription for irrelevance.

"The debate over repealing this law is over," Obama said last week. Maybe. But the debate over fixing the law has only just begun.

Mixed messages from NMDs

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



There's no doubt I've also been ultra-critical of Delegate Gregorio C. Sablan (Kilili) for his stance on the pathway to citizenship measure for some 14K folks from without. Reason? Current INS laws provide every applicant the opportunity to go through the process versus convenient grandfathering. There's no need to push for its acceleration!

Essentially, it is a position heavily supported by the NMD group. It even insisted for a meeting with Kilili so he could articulate his plans. Unfortunately, he's shied from his usual town hall meeting knowing he must have struck a fatal chord on this issue.

But may I stop Planet Earth from continuing on its orbit, momentarily.

The NMDs refuse a pathway to citizenship for foreigners who have been here for years. Such fear is moored on political displacement of the indigenous people from self-government and the denial of jobs for locals now occupied by CWs.

Yet some NMD heads also wish to bring in 5,000 new foreign workers to work on the planned 2,000-room casino hotel. Is this a situational irony or sheer grand contradiction highlighting the inability of NMDs to define what it is that it wants? Or is this agenda solely limited to NMD purveyors who employ the age-old strategy of divide and conquer while protecting measures to secure their wealth and authority?

Which is which—more foreign workers or less—and why would you disallow some while allowing others? Did you fail to see that the newcomers could easily bring in an additional 5,000 new U.S. citizens by natural birth here annually? Do you wish to see them excluded too given their rights for citizenship? Since when were you appointed general manager of the universe on pro-creation? Something's definitely amiss here even at the simple apprehension level.

Indeed, my critical views must have been fodder for Kilili's political nemesis. But does the challenger have answers to these concerns or is he in for the ride in the controversy that has enveloped Kilili? May we hear your views so we know there's personal percipiency on issues of substance? Observer status is unacceptable and it takes more than ceremonial candidacy to defeat a charismatic and an established politician.

Please spare us the high school calisthenics of phony political answers. We've memorized that script like the back of our hands. Let's see you articulate your plans. In either case, none of you is absolved from realistic articulation of this and other substantive issues in the dysfunctional relationship between the feds and the NMI today. Both incumbent and challenger(s) must earn our trust and confidence!

Substance counts so we know that you understand full measure the prevailing issues of concern on the local and national table. I mean, you would be dealing with fiery academically competent types—top 1 percent—from Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Stanford universities sitting in the lower chamber. These folks have equipped themselves with knowledge-based materials and information. Have you? Would you hit the ground running, confused which way is the goal line?

Can you guys honestly engage them in intellectual debates and discussions on matters of substance? Or do you tuck your tails between your legs using garbled English in hopes of securing sympathy for meekly sporting lack of perception, disorientation, and irrelevance?

On major federal regulations

The NMI can't sit idly by absorbing major federal regulations without participation, specifically whether any of the new dictates may be in violation of the Covenant Agreement that set the relationship some 36 years ago.

Bureaucrats throughout federal departments and independent agencies drafted the new dictates. None of them is subject to U.S. congressional oversight or judicial review. Whatever the feds issued is final and as good as law of the land. Herein lies the danger of what they'd be mandating the CNMI without due knowledge of the agreement.

May I reiterate: the new dictates establish the "administrative state" where bureaucrats we've never elected write out rules on issues and programs without our participation. Our only role is to follow them like some wounded sheep in the pasture or in servility—obedient slaves!

The Obama administration is "aggressively exploiting regulation to achieve its policy agenda, issuing 157 new major rules that costs about $73 billion annually," according to a study by the Heritage Foundation.

Last year alone, "the administration imposed 26 new major rules. And much more regulation is on the way with another 125 major rules including the Patient Protection and Affordable Act, also known as Obamacare."

At the same time, it seems our illustrious and esteemed delegate is mute on what these new regulations entail. It's another misgiving in his failure to do due diligence on our behalf. Or is he overwhelmed by what's known in Washington-speak as lobbyists?

Has he simply decided to leave our fate in the margins, treating his dissenting few as "bottom dwellers"? He should have something distinct to offer, if not in substance then in analytical rigor. You see, when our voices are heard then it presents greater opportunities for a stronger polity. To keep us at the fence is indeed loopy that drives reasonable people away.

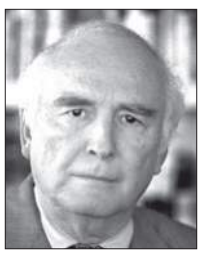
Understandably, the issue raised herein is actually the function of the federal executive branch. It means, there's a need for the governor to revive the 902 talks so he has someone in D.C. monitoring new major regulations. For now, we are still very forgiving as to allow even tired rhetoric (redundant as they may be) to fill in its own blanks.

The challenger isn't absolved from probing what these new dictates entail. Call it preparation so he has a grasp on what they are and whether their crafting is in complete accord with the agreement. We need rock solid, realistic, and percipient answers that place any discussion and debate in palatable form for all to understand.

Government for sale to highest bidder

By DAN K. THOMASSON
McClatchy-Tribune Information Services

Dan Thomasson is an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune and a former vice president of Scripps Howard Newspapers. Readers may send him email at: thomassondan@aol.com.



WASHINGTON—Look for this advertisement on TV, your local newspaper and online in the not too distant future:

"For sale at auction: 535 Seats in the U.S. Congress—100 in Upper House and 435 in Lower Chamber. Seats to be occupied by person of buyer's choice after bipartisan elective process with no restrictions on qualifications of candidates other than those set out by the major bidders.

"Reserve: $1 million per seat.

"Bidder must certify personal net worth of $200 million or more. Average citizens need not apply.

"Seat carries desk on main floor of domed building now referred to frequently as the 'Cave of the Winds' and individual offices in nearby structures. Also included with each seat is pro-rated share of sprawling government complex with extensive grounds and adjacent structures, restaurants, cafeterias, snack bars, meeting rooms, fleet of vehicles, separate library, priceless art and statues, parking facilities and fountains. Extremely valuable hideaways in main building where nefarious schemes are hatched and assignations conducted under influence of alcoholic spirits will be auctioned apart from general bidding.

"Certifying agency: the U.S. Supreme Court, which is located immediately across the street from auctioned grounds. Bidders should contact chief sales agent John G. Roberts Jr., or one of four assistants—Samuel A. Alito Jr., Antonin Scalia, Anthony M. Kennedy and Clarence Thomas.

"Authority for sale: The First Amendment of the U.S Constitution free-speech provision as interpreted by sales agent and cohorts. All other heretofore restrictions on buying and selling of seats and or candidates are hereby abrogated. Other adjustments to the elective process will be dealt with as need occurs.

"Dates of sale will be determined but extending over several months, with final purchase culminating in November every two years. All sales are final even if bidder's candidate fails to win. No refunds granted.

"A separate announcement will follow for auction of residence at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in the city of Washington, District of Columbia.

"Notice: Sales agent expects to change the motto under which Republic was founded to 'The Best Democracy Money Can Buy' with apologies to Will Rogers whose statue occupies a prominent spot in the Capitol building."

Do you think I'm kidding here? That my poor attempt at satire has no basis in reality? Well, anyone who doesn't believe that the Supreme Court has not just shouted fire in a crowded theater when it comes to the election process has been spending too much time in Colorado buying more than a little of what we used to be put in jail for smoking.

The bolts that secure the dome to the nation's symbol of democracy have been more than just loosened by the high court's narrow decision in the name of free speech to take off the limits on aggregate contributions from individuals to federal candidates and political committees. It of course follows the Citizens United decision that struck down limits on independent campaign spending by corporations and unions without lifting the restraints on direct contributions to candidates. One can anticipate the death of limits on direct contributions sometime soon.

While the vote last week broke along the usual philosophical lines of this court with conservatives taking the edge, both political parties began immediately rounding up their usual whales to finance the coming midterms. We're talking about the really big boys here, the multi-billionaires like Sheldon Adelson, the gambling magnate, and the Koch brothers, who already support half the conservative causes in America on the Republican side, and the likes of George Soros and Warren Buffet for the Democrats.

I wonder if the founders of this great nation ever considered that someone might amass the kind of wealth these guys and their families have accumulated and that the corrupting influence such wealth portends ultimately might undercut what they had in mind when they wrote the Constitution and added a bedrock amendment of freedoms? If they meant the First Amendment to be a protection of political speech from government interference as Chief Justice Roberts concluded, is not giving a handful of super wealthy individuals control of the system without restraint doing just about the same?

How can someone who scrapes up one hundred bucks to give to a candidate or a political cause expect to be heard? The truth is he should save his money. Is not his free speech being impinged upon?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Open letter to Mr. Pedro Tenorio

Dear Pete: Your silence speaks volumes and it was deafening after your letter came out demanding COP to terminate their lease so you could extend it to 40 years. It is sad, though, that you choose to ignore my letter completely. Well, what can I say, you are the authority and there's nothing we can do about it. It could've been an opportunity for you to explore other possibilities that will greatly benefit the people of the CNMI. Why the rush anyway? I can understand MCC but why COP too when they haven't started with their original plan? I guess when you're in that zone, it doesn't matter who gets screwed along the way.

But out of curiosity, is this transaction allowed under our Constitution? Is there such thing as a pre-arranged contract in government? Is it in the contract that anything short of approval by the Legislature, it will revert back to the original contract? In other words, what if the Legislature disapproves these deals, does MCC and COP have that option to continue operating under the old contract? How convenient. What's wrong with what our governor said about the RFP? Don't you agree that requesting for an RFP gives you the best deal and no one will question your integrity? What exactly are you asking these guys that you feel others can't do? Are you asking MCC to build another nine or 18 holes? What is it that you want MCC to do at the hotel? Is it to facelift or build another 200 rooms? And what do you want COP to do? Another 300 rooms on top of the 200? And is there a timetable for all these to be accomplished? Or is it at their convenience? If you're concerned about the building dilapidating then hire an engineer or someone to assess it so you could make sound decision.

Anyway, I just wish you carry the same motto of retired judge Edward Manibusan: "Equal opportunity for everyone." But it was your call and I can respect that. Have a nice day!

Nick Sablan
Garapan, Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°

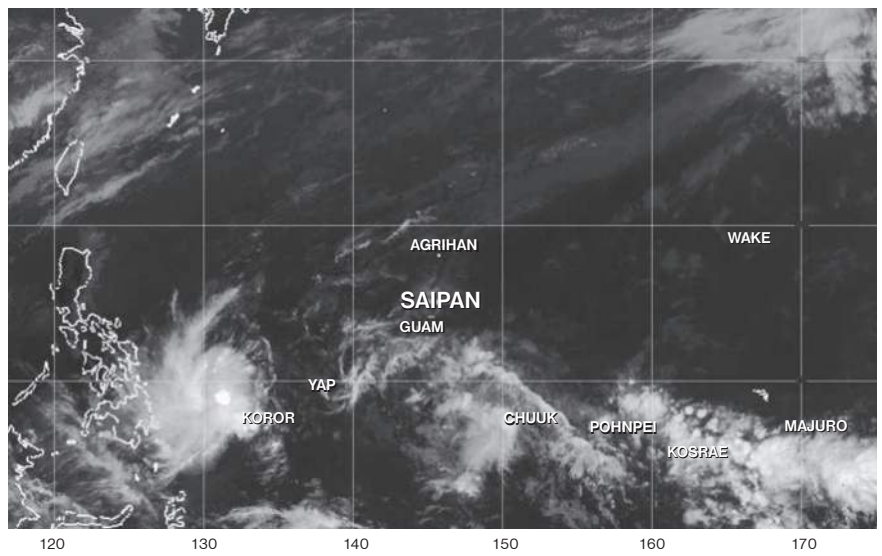
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼75
Yap	Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲72	▼64
Beijing	Cloudy	▲64	▼46
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼69
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼68
London	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼41
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼59
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼80
Melbourne	Showers	▲69	▼59
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼65
New York	Sunny	▲57	▼38
Osaka	Windy	▲61	▼42
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲61	▼42
Pusan	Windy	▲58	▼46
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼51
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼37
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼44
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼44
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼41

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Depression Peipah (05W) is centered 220 miles west of Koror near 7N131E moving northwest at 5 mph with maximum sustained winds of 35 mph. Scattered to numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring just west of Koror or west of a line from 5N135E to 12N133E. For additional information, see warnings issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A cold front extends southwestward from near 25N162E to south of Minami Tori Shima near 22N155E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 14N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary east of 18N145E. A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from Tropical Depression Peipah (05W) through a circulation centered south-southeast of Chuuk near 3N154E to end at EQ157E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms exist across Chuuk state within 190 miles of line from 12N147E to 5N150E. Scattered showers are also present south of Koror south of a line from 1N130E to 3N138E to EQ141e. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from near Pohnpei to Kosrae and Butaritari within 180 miles of a line from 9N158E to 4N167E to 4N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:10 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:59 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
3:48 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
10:53 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:33 PM	1:41 AM
Thursday	2:21 PM	2:22 AM
Friday	3:09 PM	3:02 AM
Saturday	3:57 PM	3:42 AM
Sunday	4:47 PM	4:21 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	6:55pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA5038	7:45pm	8:35pm	2, 6
UA5078	8:10pm	9:00pm	3

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	5:35pm	6:10pm	2, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	6:40pm	7:15pm	2, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11: 05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5038	5:35pm	7:15pm	2, 6 via Rota
UA5077	6:50pm	7:40pm	3

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	6:55pm	7:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	8:00pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:45am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5039	9:55am	6:25pm	7 via Guam
UA190/5038	9:55am	7:15pm	6 via Rota-Guam
UA190/5077	9:55am	7:40pm	3 via Guam
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA184/5038	10:25pm	7:15pm+1	1 via Rota-Guam
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/5038	11:30pm	7:15pm+1	5 via Rota-Guam

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Business

Air travel: Late flights are up, complaints down

DALLAS (AP)—A big drop in customer complaints helped U.S. airlines post their best ratings ever even though more flights were late and more bags were mishandled, according to a report released Monday by university researchers.

Virgin America topped the ratings, and three regional airlines scored at the bottom.

Among the four biggest airlines, Delta ranked best followed by Southwest, American and United, according to researchers from Wichita State University and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

The researchers have graded airlines since 1991 on government figures for on-time performance, mishandled bags, bumping passengers, and complaints filed with the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Their key findings:

ON-TIME PERFORMANCE: Airlines operated 78.4 percent of their flights on time in 2013, down from 81.8 percent in 2012. Best: Hawaiian Airlines; worst: American Eagle. Only two airlines improved: American Airlines and United.

BAG HANDLING: The rate of lost, stolen or delayed bags rose 5 percent. Best: Virgin America; worst: American Eagle.

AP

This Jan. 10, 2011 file photo shows Virgin Atlantic airplanes at London's Heathrow Airport. A big drop in customer complaints helped U.S. airlines post their best ratings ever even though more flights were late and more bags were mishandled, according to a report released Monday, April 7, 2014 by university researchers.

BUMPING: The rate of bumping passengers from flights fell 8 percent. Best: JetBlue Airways; worst: SkyWest.

COMPLAINTS: Consumer complaints to the government dropped 15 percent in 2013 after rising 20 percent the year before. Best: Southwest Airlines; worst: Frontier.

One of the report's authors, Wichita State business professor Dean Headley, credited the drop in complaints partly to United Airlines. The company suffered several computer-network outages and grounded hundreds of flights in 2012 when it combined the United and Continental computer networks after a merger, but "got their act together" in 2013, he said.

Headley said the drop in complaints might also reflect "a certain amount of resignation" that "it's never wonderful for airline passengers."

It's not clear that the researchers captured the mood of travelers. No matter how much people gripe about airlines, very few of the millions of fliers ever bother to file a complaint with the government. The Department of Transportation, or DOT, received just 9,684 complaints last year after getting 11,447 in 2012.

Chris Lopinto, CEO of ExpertFlyer.com and not involved in the academic report, said he believes that most consumers complain directly to the airlines instead.

"The DOT can't comp you miles or comp you a voucher—only the airlines can do that," Lopinto said. "A passenger might not think to file with DOT."

Most of the worst grades—from late flights and lost bags to bumping passengers off planes—were earned by smaller regional airlines. In the overall standings, American Eagle, the regional affiliate of American Airlines, finished last, just ahead of SkyWest and ExpressJet, which operate regional flights for United and Delta.

Regional airlines fly smaller planes, their flights are the first to be canceled in bad weather, and they operate at smaller airports that might lack the maintenance capability of bigger airports. However, they have become critical to the so-called hub-and-spoke system that United, American and Delta use to connect passengers to flights at big "hub" airports.

"If you have hubs, you need spokes or the wheel doesn't work," Headley said.

Only 2 midsize SUVs get top rating in crash tests

DETROIT (AP)—Only two of nine midsize SUVs got the highest rating in crash tests done by an insurance industry group.

The Chevrolet Equinox and GMC Terrain, both made by General Motors, received the highest "good" rating from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. The Toyota Highlander got the second-best "acceptable" rating in tests of 2014 models.

But the Jeep Grand Cherokee, Toyota 4Runner and Ford Explorer got "marginal" ratings, while the Kia Sorento, Mazda CX-9 and Honda Pilot all were rated "poor."

The ratings are based on six crash test measurements done by the institute. Only the Equinox and Terrain got "good" ratings in a front overlap crash that mimics what happens when a car's front corner collides with another vehicle or an object like a utility pole. In the test, 25 percent of a vehicle's front end on the driver's side strikes a rigid barrier at 40 mph.

The test, instituted in 2012, is more difficult than the U.S. government's frontal crash test, in which a car strikes a rigid barrier head-on at 35 mph. IIHS says hitting only part of the front end makes it harder for cars to manage the energy from a crash. The test "continues to challenge manufacturers more than a year and a half after its introduction," the institute said in a statement.

The institute uses its crash test scores to prod automakers into adding safety devices or making their cars more crash-resistant.

The institute said the Equinox and Terrain, which are almost identical, were modified by GM in the new model year to strengthen their front structure and door-hinge pillars. In tests, the Equinox driver's space was well-maintained, and the crash dummy's movement was well-controlled, the institute said.

The institute changed its requirements for vehicles to get the "Top Safety Pick-Plus" designation this year. To earn that, vehicles must get "good" ratings in four crash tests, "good" or "acceptable" in the overlap test, and they must have available a front crash prevention system that either warns the driver of a crash or stops the vehicle with automatic braking.

Of the nine midsize SUVs, only the Equinox and Terrain and the Highlander qualified for "Top Safety Pick-Plus."

The Honda Pilot was the worst performer of the group, largely because the driver's space was seriously compromised in the overlap test, the institute said.

Honda said in a statement that with each redesign, the Pilot has been a leader in light-truck safety and driver-assist technologies "and we are committed that it will continue to do so in the future."

End of Windows XP support spells trouble for some

NEW YORK (AP)—Microsoft will end support for the persistently popular Windows XP on Tuesday, and the move could put everything from the operations of heavy industry to the identities of everyday people in danger.

An estimated 30 percent of computers being used by businesses and consumers around the world are still running the 12-year-old operating system.

"What once was considered low-hanging fruit by hackers now has a big neon bull's eye on it," says Patrick Thomas, a security consultant at the San Jose, Calif.-based firm Neohapsis.

Microsoft has released a handful of Windows operating systems since 2001, but XP's popularity and the durability of the computers it was installed on kept it around longer than expected. Analysts say that if a PC is more than five years old, chances are it's running XP.

While users can still run XP after Tuesday, Microsoft says it will no longer provide security updates, issue fixes to non-security related problems or offer online technical content updates. The company is discontinuing XP to focus on maintaining its newer operating systems, the core programs that run personal computers.

The Redmond, Wash.-based company says it will provide anti-malware-related updates through July 14, 2015, but warns that the tweaks could be of limited help on an outdated operating system.

Most industry experts say they recognize that the time for Microsoft to end support for such a dated system has come, but the move poses both security and operational risks for the remaining users. In addition to home computers, XP is used to run everything from water treatment facilities and power plants to small businesses like doctor's offices.

Thomas says XP appealed to a wide variety of people and businesses that saw it as a reliable workhorse and many chose to stick with it instead of upgrading to Windows Vista, Windows 7 or 8.

Thomas notes that companies generally resist change because they don't like risk. As a result, businesses most likely to still be using XP include banks and financial services companies, along with health care providers.

Some airlines drop limes from beverage service

NEW YORK (AP)—Airline passengers might notice something missing these days from their vodka tonics or Diet Cokes: the lime.

A recent shortage and spike in price has caused some airlines—for now—to stop offering the fruit in their beverage service.

"We temporarily pulled limes about two weeks ago, due to skyrocketing lime prices," says Alaska Airlines spokeswoman Halley Knigge. She says the airline normally goes through about 900 limes a day.

Lime growers in the Mexican state of Michoacan have reduced their supply because of unrest caused by drug cartels and flooding from heavy rains. That, combined with drought in California and an overall growing demand for limes for margaritas, tacos and other dishes, has driven up prices to a three-year high.

The average advertised price of a lime in U.S. supermarkets was 56 cents last week, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That's up from 37 cents the week ending March 28 and 31 cents a year ago.

United Airlines has had to make do with lemons on some flights, saying the California drought has limited its lime supply.

"We still serve limes, though they're more difficult to source. So, on some flights we're substituting with lemons," says spokesman Rahsaan Johnson.

For frequent fliers like Ben Schlappig, author of the travel blog One Mile at a Time, that won't cut it. "There are lots of cocktails where lemon simply isn't a substitute for lime," he says.

One of United's largest caters told the airline that it has 15 to 20 percent of the typical lime inventory. The airline expects to have a normal supply of limes by late May.

The elimination of limes—even if temporary—is reminiscent of a famous cost-cutting move. In the 1980s, then American Airlines CEO Robert Crandall decided to remove a single olive from every salad. The thought was: passengers wouldn't notice and American would save $40,000 a year.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
16,245.87	1,845.04	4,079.75
-166.84	-20.05	-47.97
-1.02%	-1.08%	-1.16 %

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0757	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7551	Philippine Peso	44.8521
British Pound	0.6018	Indian Rupee	60.3099	Russian Ruble	35.5032
Canadian Dollar	1.0964	Indonesian Rupiah	11283.0457	Singapore Dollar	1.2583
Chinese Yuan	6.2070	Japanese Yen	102.9005	South Korean Won	1052.3420
Euro	0.7276	Malaysian Ringgit	3.2577	Taiwan Dollar	30.2188
		New Zealand Dollar	1.1576	Thailand Baht	32.3800

Nation

Army: Fort Hood suspect had requested leave

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP)—Army investigators on Monday released a more detailed timeline of last week's fatal shootings at Fort Hood, describing an eight-minute rampage in which the suspect fired 35 shots over an area spanning the equivalent of two city blocks.

Three people were killed and 16 others wounded in the shooting spree before the suspect, Spc. Ivan Lopez, killed himself, authorities said.

During a news conference Monday, Army spokesman Chris Grey said the shootings at the Texas post followed an argument related to Lopez's request for taking leave, but he didn't indicate whether it was granted or describe circumstances behind the request.

A spokesman for Lopez's family said last week that Lopez was upset he was granted only a 24-hour leave to attend his mother's funeral in November. That leave was then extended to two days.

The shooting spree Wednesday ended when Lopez killed himself with his .45-caliber pistol after confronting a female military police officer, who Grey said fired once at Lopez but didn't strike him.

Providing the most detail yet about the second mass shooting at Fort Hood in five years, Grey mapped out how Lopez opened fire in the building where the argument began before leaving and driving away, shooting at times from his car. The three who died were gunned down in separate locations.

Grey said Lopez first killed one soldier and wounded 10 others in the first building - the dead being one of the men Lopez had argued with moments earlier. Lopez then drove to a motor pool area where the Army truck driver was assigned and worked, killing another, Grey said.

The last place Lopez entered was a block away at a medical building, Grey said, walking inside and killing a soldier behind the desk.

"At this point we do not know why he entered that building, and we may never know why," Grey said.

In all, investigators say Lopez fired more than 35 shots.

Authorities said 11 of 16 injured have returned to duty. Three soldiers who remain at nearby Scott & White Hospital, where the most critically injured were taken, were listed in fair condition Monday.

President Barack Obama is scheduled to attend a memorial service Wednesday at Fort Hood. Authorities said transportation arrangements for the three dead are being finalized for their funerals.

In another attack at the base in 2009, 13 people were killed by Army psychiatrist Nidal Hasan, who had said he was angry about being deployed to Afghanistan and wanted to protect Islamic and Taliban leaders from U.S. troops.

Lopez did a short stint in Iraq in 2011 and told medical personnel he had suffered a traumatic brain injury. The 34-year-old was undergoing treatment for depression and anxiety while being evaluated for post-traumatic stress disorder, base officials said. Fort Hood officials on Friday, however, said his mental condition was not a "direct participating factor" in the shooting.

AP

Flowers decorate a fence outside of Fort Hood's east gate on Sunday, April 6, 2014, in Killeen, Texas, in honor of those killed and wounded in the Fort Hood shooting on April 2. T

Death toll in Washington mudslide rises to 33

EVERETT, Wash. (AP)—The death toll from the landslide that hit the Washington town of Oso rose to 33 on Monday, according to the Snohomish County medical examiner's office, which said all but three have been identified.

The latest name added to the list is Billy L. Spillers, 30, of Arlington. Like the others, he died of multiple blunt force injuries in the March 22 slide that crushed the residential area along the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River about 55 miles northeast of Seattle.

His name had been on the list of missing.

The number of missing on Monday was 12, said Shari Ireton, spokeswoman for the Snohomish County sheriff's office.

However, that figure does not necessarily correlate with the number of dead, said Kelly Stowe, a spokeswoman for the medical examiner's office. The missing list remains fluid as names are added and removed.

Spillers was a Navy chief petty officer who lived with his wife, Jonielle, and their four children. She was at her nursing job when the landslide hit their house. Spillers' 4-year-old son survived and was rescued by a helicopter.

Spillers' daughter Kaylee, 5, and stepson Jovon Mangual, 13, have been identified among the dead. Two-year-old daughter Brooke is listed among the missing.

So far, more than 220 people have registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, seeking individual assistance, FEMA spokesman David Mace said Monday as he announced the opening of three disaster recovery centers for slide victims.

FEMA workers and state representatives will provide "one-on-one, face-to-face counseling and assistance" at the centers in Arlington, Darrington and at the Oso fire station, Mace said.

As the search continues in the debris for bodies, the Army Corps of Engineers is working on a berm—a big rock and gravel barrier. That will enable crews to pump water over the berm and drain an area where search teams want to work, said Steve Thomsen, county public works director. Engineers hope to finish the berm in a week.

Donations pour in for Phoenix mom facing charges

PHOENIX (AP)—A Phoenix woman arrested after leaving her two kids in a hot vehicle during a job interview is fighting to clear her name in court, with the support of a New Jersey woman who has raised more than $91,000 to help her effort.

Unemployed and on food stamps, Shanesha Taylor went to the job interview last month at a Scottsdale insurance company.

Taylor

The 35-year-old wasn't able to find a sitter, so she left her 2-year-old son and 6-month old baby in her Dodge Durango with the key still in the ignition and the windows rolled down an inch.

A witness found the infant crying hysterically and sweating profusely as temperatures inside the SUV exceeded 100 degrees.

Taylor was arrested after returning to the vehicle, and her tearful mugshot later caught the attention of 24-year-old Amanda Bishop of New Jersey.

Bishop said she was inspired to set up a fundraising web page for Taylor because she could relate to growing up in a family that doesn't have a lot of money.

"I had a mother and family in general who struggled raising us and had to rely on other resources to provide for us and sometimes made not the greatest choices," Bishop said.

Taylor pleaded not guilty Monday at her arraignment.

Prosecutors point out that her actions put the safety of her children in danger.

According to court documents, Scottsdale firefighters found the vehicle's windows rolled down only an inch and no running air conditioning to keep the children cool.

The baby was described as wearing a short-sleeve shirt over a long-sleeve shirt, as well as a blanket. Taylor arrived back at the vehicle more than an hour after her interview time, the documents said.

"Everything is focused on the mother and understandably so. It seems to be a very compelling human interest story," County Attorney Bill Montgomery said at a recent news conference. "But I'm equally concerned and compelled about the circumstances those two children were in."

Montgomery said it's too soon to determine if Taylor will receive a prison term or face losing custody of her children. Her offenses could amount to a sentence ranging from probation to seven years in prison, prosecutors said.

Neither Taylor nor her court-appointed attorney has responded to requests for comment.

Bishop established the fundraising site on YouCaring.com with the goal of raising $9,000. She was flabbergasted when the site reached the goal in four days and then exceeded it by tens of thousands of dollars.

The site also has received more than a thousand comments, some of which accuse Bishop and other supporters of endorsing child abuse. Bishop said Taylor should not be condemned for one bad decision.

ACROSS THE NATION

Storms sock the Southeast, killing 2 people

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)—Severe thunderstorms dumped heavy rains across the Southeast on Monday and caused flash flooding in central Alabama, where crews in small boats and military trucks had to rescue dozens of people from their homes and cars. In Mississippi, a 9-year-old girl was swept away and killed after the storms dropped nearly 7 inches of rain there over the last two days. A possible tornado in another part of the state damaged homes and hurt seven people, and a motorist in metro Atlanta was found dead after driving into a creek swollen with rainwater. Strong winds downed trees, power lines and snarled rush hour commutes. National Weather Service forecasters in North Carolina say video indicates a tornado touched down near the town of Belhaven in the eastern part of the state. Authorities say a pickup truck was lifted off the highway, injuring a man and his son.

Mother in drowning case found mentally incompetent

PITTSBURGH (AP)—A western Pennsylvania woman accused of drowning two of her sons in a bathtub was ordered Monday to a state mental hospital after a jail psychiatrist told a judge the defendant is mentally incompetent. Dr. Christine Martone testified that Laurel Michelle Schlemmer is psychotic and suicidal and has a major depressive disorder. Schlemmer should be treated at Torrance State Hospital in Derry Township, about 45 miles east of Pittsburgh, before her condition is reviewed to determine if she can stand trial in the future, Martone said. Judge Jeffrey Manning also issued a gag order in the case at the request of Schlemmer's attorney, Michael Machen. That prevents anyone associated with the case from commenting on the competency finding, which can be reviewed in 90 days.

Asia

Hagel, Chang air differences over disputed islands

BEIJING (AP)—The defense chiefs of China and the U.S. faced off Tuesday over Beijing's escalating territorial disputes in the region, as Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, wagging his finger, said China doesn't have the right to unilaterally establish an air defense zone over disputed islands with no consultation.

And he said America will protect Japan in a dispute with China.

Chinese Defense Minister Chang Wanquan said his country will not take the initiative to stir up troubles with Japan, but Beijing is ready to use its military if needed to safeguard its territory. And he warned that the U.S. must "stay vigilant" against Japan's actions and "not be permissive and supportive" of Tokyo.

The two men were speaking to reporters after a meeting here.

The U.S. has criticized Beijing's recent declaration of an air defense zone over a large swath of the East China Sea, including disputed islands controlled by Japan.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting with Chang at the Ministry of Defense, the two men aired their countries well-known positions about the territorial disputes.

AP

U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, left, is welcomed by Rear Admiral Guan Youfei, Director of Foreign Affairs Office of the Chinese Defense Ministry and U.S. Ambassador to China, Max Baucus, upon his arrival at Qingdao International Airport in Qingdao, China, Monday, April 7, 2014.

The meeting focused on how the U.S. and China can build stronger ties, in the wake of years of frosty relations over Beijing's military buildup, persistent cyberattacks against U.S. government agencies and private industry, and aggressive Chinese territorial claims in the East China Sea.

Beijing's recent declaration of an air defense zone over a large swath of the East China Sea, including disputed islands controlled by Japan has raised complaints from the U.S., deepening concerns that it could spark a confrontation.

Washington has refused to recognize the zone or follow China's demands that its aircraft file flight plans with Beijing's Defense Ministry and heed Chinese instructions. China has warned of unspecified retaliatory measures against aircraft that do not comply, but has so far taken no action.

He also said the U.S. and China must be more open with each other about their cyber capabilities, saying that greater openness "reduces the risk that misunderstanding and misperception could lead to miscalculation."

Hagel pointed to the ongoing threat from North Korea, which recently threatened additional missile and nuclear tests. And he said the U.S. and China have a shared interest "in achieving a verifiable, irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

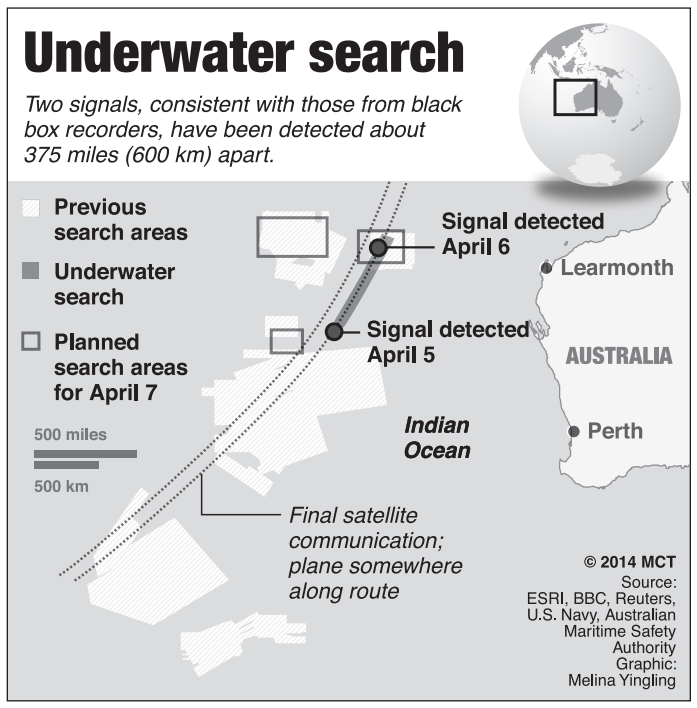
In recent weeks the North has conducted a series of rocket and ballistic missile launches that are considered acts of protest against annual ongoing springtime military exercises by Seoul and Washington. North Korea says the exercises are rehearsals for invasion.

Ship hunting for more 'pings' in plane search

PERTH, Australia (AP)—Search crews hunting for the missing Malaysia Airlines jet have failed to relocate faint sounds heard deep below the Indian Ocean that officials said were consistent with a plane's black boxes, the head of the search operation said Tuesday.

Angus Houston, the retired Australian air chief marshal who is heading the search operation far off Australia's west coast, said sound locating equipment on board the Ocean Shield has picked up no trace of the signals since they were first heard late Saturday and early Sunday.

Time is running out to find the devices, whose locator beacons have a battery life of about a month. Tuesday marks exactly one month since the plane vanished.


Underwater search
Two signals, consistent with those from black box recorders, have been detected about 375 miles (600 km) apart.
Previous search areas
Underwater search
Planned search areas for April 7
Signal detected April 6
Signal detected April 5
Learmonth
AUSTRALIA
Perth
Indian Ocean
500 miles
500 km
Final satellite communication; plane somewhere along route
© 2014 MCT
Source: ESRI, BBC, Reuters, U.S. Navy, Australian Maritime Safety Authority
Graphic: Melina Yingling

"There have been no further contacts with any transmission and we need to continue that for several days right up to the point at which there's absolutely no doubt that the batteries will have expired," Houston said.

Houston said the Ocean Shield crew may spend several more days towing sophisticated U.S. Navy listening equipment deep within the ocean to try and find the sounds again. Only at that point, Houston said, would a sub on board the ship be sent below the surface to try and chart out any debris on the sea floor. If it maps out a debris field, the crew will replace the sonar system with a camera unit to photograph any wreckage.

Houston's comments contradicted an earlier statement from Australia's acting prime minister, Warren Truss, who said search crews would be start the Bluefin 21 autonomous sub on Tuesday.

The towed pinger locator detected late Saturday and early Sunday two distinct, long-lasting sounds underwater that are consistent with the pings from an aircraft's "black boxes"—the flight data and cockpit voice recorders.

Houston dubbed the find a promising lead in the month-long hunt for clues to the plane's fate, but warned it could take days to determine whether the sounds were connected to Flight 370, which vanished March 8 on a flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing.

Another jet-search unknown: How much it's costing

BANGKOK (AP)—It's not a question most governments involved in the hunt for the Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 care to answer: How much has the far-flung, month-long search cost?

The U.S. bill alone has run into the millions of dollars, and some countries such as China have devoted more ships and planes to the effort than the Americans have. Australia is spending more than half a million dollars a day on just one of the ships it has in the Indian Ocean.

But governments and military experts say it's difficult to come up with a full estimate for an ongoing search, especially since many of the costs are a normal part of maintaining effective search-and-rescue capabilities.

"If I listed how many planes and boats are involved, I could confect a very large number, but it wouldn't have much meaning, because we've got to pay for the boats and the planes and the pilots and the sailors anyway, and they're out there doing some stuff which is good training and reflects well on us internationally," said Mark Thomson, senior analyst of defense economics at the government-funded Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

More than two dozen countries have played some role in the long search, which Malaysia is overseeing. In the days since the search has shifted to remote areas of the Indian Ocean, several countries have deployed planes and ships for the effort, including China, Australia, Malaysia, the U.S., Britain, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea. On Monday, nine military planes, three civil aircraft and 14 ships were combing a 234,000-square-kilometer (90,000-square-mile) search area, according to Australian officials coordinating the search.

Malaysia has repeatedly declined to answer questions about the cost of the search.

"Nobody, not the Malaysian government, none of our partners, have talked about dollars and cents. It's all about trying to find the aircraft," Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said at a press conference last month.

The U.S. Department of Defense allocated $4 million to help search for the missing Malaysian jetliner. Between March 8 and March 24, it had spent $3.2 million, said spokesman Col. Steve Warren. As of late last week it had spent another $148,000. The Pentagon has allocated another $3.6 million to cover the cost of a towed pinger locator, used to detect underwater signals from aircraft black boxes, and an underwater autonomous vehicle, which can look for wreckage deep below the ocean surface.

Australia's defense department said its direct cost of using its ship the HMAS Success in the search is about $550,000 per day, and another vessel, the HMAS Toowoomba, costs about $380,000 per day.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Royals arrive in New Zealand to rain, cheers

SYDNEY (AP)—Britain's Prince William and his wife, Kate, have arrived in New Zealand's capital to cheers from locals who braved windy, rainy weather to catch a glimpse of the royal couple. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge landed in the fog-shrouded city of Wellington on Monday along with their baby son, George, to kick off a three-week tour of New Zealand and Australia. Prime Minister John Key greeted the couple before they were whisked off to Government House where they received a traditional Maori welcome.

Italian diplomat on abuse charge in PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police said Monday they have detained a vacationing Italian diplomat and filed complaints of human trafficking and child abuse after he was allegedly found in the company of three underage boys at a resort. The Italian foreign ministry identified the diplomat as Daniele Bosio, Italy's ambassador to Turkmenistan, and said he had been suspended from his duties after Philippines authorities upheld his detention. It gave no further comment. Philippines police Senior Superintendent Romulo Sapitula said members of the child rights group Bahay Tuluyan who were on an outing in the same resort in Laguna province, south of Manila, became suspicious and alerted authorities.

Filipino rebels form party as they end rebellion

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The largest Muslim rebel group in the Philippines says it has formed a political party as it turns away from a decades-long rebellion after signing a peace pact with the government. Mohagher Iqbal, a leader of the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front, said Tuesday that his rebel group's new political organization, the United Bangsamoro Justice Party, would be used as a springboard to contest leadership of a more powerful Muslim autonomous region to be established in the south of the largely Catholic Philippines. With the political party, Iqbal says the rebels "will continue the struggle, but no longer with arms."

World

Pro-Russians call east Ukraine region independent

AP

Activists wave Russian national flags on the balcony of the regional administration building decorated a banner reading "Donetsk Republic," in Donetsk, Ukraine, Monday, April 7, 2014.

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP)—Pro-Moscow activists barricaded inside government buildings in eastern Ukraine proclaimed their regions independent Monday and called for a referendum on seceding from Ukraine - an ominous echo of the events that led to Russia's annexation of Crimea.

The Ukrainian government accused Russia of stirring up the unrest and tried to flush the assailants from some of the seized buildings, setting off fiery clashes in one city. Russia, which has tens of thousands of troops massed along the border, sternly warned Ukraine against using force.

In Washington, the U.S. said any move by Russia into eastern Ukraine would be a "very serious escalation" that could bring further sanctions. White House spokesman Jay Carney said there was strong evidence that some of the pro-Russian protesters were hired and were not local residents.

At the same time, the U.S. announced that Secretary of State John Kerry will meet with top diplomats from Russia, Ukraine and the European Union in a new push to ease tensions. The meeting, the first such four-way talks since the crisis erupted, will take place in the next 10 days, the State Department said.

Pro-Russian activists who seized the provincial administrative building in the city of Donetsk over the weekend announced the formation Monday of the independent Donetsk People's Republic.

They also called for a referendum on the secession of the Donetsk region, to be held no later than May 11, according to the Russian news agency Interfax.

A similar action was taken in another Russian-speaking city in the east, Kharkiv, where pro-Moscow activists proclaimed a "sovereign Kharkiv People's Republic," Interfax said.

It quoted the regional police as saying they later cleared the regional administration building, and the activists responded by throwing firebombs and rocks at the windows and setting tires ablaze. Local news reports said that the pro-Russian crowds then recaptured the building.

Kharkiv Mayor Gennady Kernes said the activists also took control of the TV tower in Kharkiv and demanded it resume broadcasting banned Russian channels. But local police said the assailants later left.

Egypt women: Rights on paper, not yet on ground

CAIRO (AP)—Women activists say they won a major step forward with Egypt's new constitution, which enshrined greater rights for women. But months after its passage, they're worrying whether those rights will be implemented or will turn out to be merely ink on paper.

The causes for concern are many. Men hold an overwhelming near-lock on decision-making in politics, and activists say they are doing little to bring about equality. Violence against women in public space has grown over the past three years of turmoil since the 2011 ouster of autocrat Hosni Mubarak. And some activists say the increasingly repressive political climate is stifling chances for democratic reforms that would bring women's rights.

An incident in March underlined how far activists say they still need to go to change public attitudes. After a female student at Cairo University came under mass sexual assault by male students, the university's president, Gaber Nassar, criticized her for the way she was dressed. A well-known TV presenter, Tamir Amin, went on a tirade on his show, saying the student was "dressed like a belly dancer." She was wearing black pants, a long-sleeved pink shirt and a head-scarf.

Amid an uproar on social media, both Nassar and Amin apologized for their comments. But Amin still went on to say women should wear "appropriate" clothing when they go out.

The following week, a law criminalizing sexual harassment was referred to the presidency for review, though the text has yet to be released.

There have been multiple mass sexual assaults on women during protests the past three years. In one notorious incident in 2011, security forces dragged a female protester to the ground, pulled up her top to reveal her blue bra and stomped on her chest. Other female protesters at the time were forced to undergo humiliating "virginity tests" when detained by the military.

Women have also been caught up in the violence since the military ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi last summer and security forces launched a heavy crackdown on his Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamists. Last weekend, a 22-year-old female journalist, Mayada Ashraf, with the newspaper Al-Dustour, was shot to death while she covered clashes between police and Morsi supporters in the Cairo district of Ein Shams. Police have arrested 20 protesters, accusing them of shooting her—but witnesses have raised questions whether it was actually security forces who killed her.

Around 50 other women were among hundreds killed during clashes since the violent dispersal of the pro-Morsi protest camps on Aug. 14, and around 240 are among the 16,000 people arrested in the crackdown on Morsi's followers, according to security officials. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to journalists.

Gunman kills Dutch priest in Syrian city of Homs

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—A beloved, elderly Dutch priest who made headlines this year with a desperate plea for aid for civilians trapped in the besieged Syrian city of Homs was assassinated Monday by a masked gunman who shot him at his monastery, the latest attack targeting Christian clergymen in the country's civil war.

The killing of Father Francis Van Der Lugt—a Jesuit, the same order as Pope Francis—underscored fears among many of Syria's Christian and Muslim minorities for the fate of their communities as Islamic extremists gain influence among rebels seeking to topple President Bashar Assad.

The 75-year-old Van Der Lugt, an Arabic speaker, had lived in Syria for 50 years and refused to leave Homs even as hundreds of civilians were evacuated from rebel-held districts of Homs that have been besieged for more than a year by Assad's forces. Van Der Lugt lived in the monastery in one of those neighborhoods, Bustan al-Diwan.

He appeared to have been directly targeted in the early morning attack, according to several people who were in the monastery when the attack occurred. A single gunman walked into the monastery, entered the garden and shot him in the head, said Rev. Ziad Hillal.

"I am truly shocked. A man of peace has been murdered," Hillal said in a phone interview from Homs with the Vatican Radio.

A person, who has lived in the monastery with the slain priest said he was buried in the convent's garden late Monday. The person who passed the information of the priest's burial on the phone did not want to be identified for fear of being targeted.

The motives for the attack were not known, and no one immediately claimed responsibility for the killing.

Over the past year, hard-line rebel groups, including the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front, have become more influential and dominant among the opposition fighters in the central city, as in many other areas of Syria.

Another Jesuit priest, Father Paolo Dall'Oglio of Italy has been missing since July after traveling to meet Islamic militants who now rule the eastern city of Raqqa. A year ago, two Greek Orthodox bishops were seized from their car by gunmen outside the northern city of Aleppo and have been missing since.

An activist based in the blockaded rebel-held area of Homs said rebel fighters were shocked by the priest's death.

"The man was living with us, eating with us, sleeping with us. He didn't leave, even when the blockade was eased," Beibars Tilawi said via Skype. Regardless of the rebels' views toward Christians, the priest was well-liked for his efforts to get the blockade lifted and alleviate widespread suffering and hunger among civilians, Tilawi said.

The state news agency SANA blamed "terrorists" for the priest's death but offered no details. The government uses the term for rebels.

WORLD BRIEFS

2 UN workers killed by gunmen in Somalia

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Gunmen inside an airport in Somalia shot and killed two consultants working for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the U.N. mission in the country said Monday. A U.N. official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the information hadn't yet been made public said the two slain workers were working on a counter-piracy program and were looking at the financial flow of money related to Somalia's pirate attacks. Nicholas Kay, the U.N. representative to Somalia, said the two were working in support of Somalia's aspiration for a peaceful and stable future.

Quebec separatist party suffers crushing defeat

MONTREAL (AP)—The Liberal Party won Quebec's legislative elections Monday, in a crushing defeat for the main separatist party and major setback for the cause of independence in the French-speaking province. The results will allow the Liberals, staunch supporters of Canadian unity, to form a majority government, less than 18 months after voters had booted the party from power for the first time in nine years amid allegations of corruption. With 99 percent of the polling stations reporting, the Liberals had 41.4 percent of the vote and took 70 of the National Assembly's 125 seats.

Focus

'We're all paying:' Heroin spreads misery in US

AMY FORLITI, DAN SEWELL and NIGEL DUARA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR'S NOTE: The death of actor Philip Seymour Hoffman underscored a troubling development: Heroin, long a scourge of the back alleys of American life, has spread across the country.

On a beautiful Sunday last October, Detective Dan Douglas stood in a Minnesota home and looked down at a lifeless 20-year-old—a needle mark in his arm, a syringe in his pocket. It didn't take long for Douglas to realize that the man, fresh out of treatment, was his second heroin overdose that day.

In Ohio, a local rehab facility has a six-month wait. One school recently referred an 11-year-old boy who was shooting up intravenously. Children have been forced into foster care because of addicted parents. Shoplifting rings have formed to raise money to buy fixes.

Heroin is spreading its misery across America. And communities everywhere are paying.

The recent death of actor Philip Seymour Hoffman spotlighted the reality that heroin is no longer limited to the back alleys of American life. Once mainly a city phenomenon, the drug has spread—gripping postcard villages in Vermont, middle-class enclaves outside Chicago and other places.

Cocaine, painkillers and tranquilizers are all used more than heroin, and the latest federal overdose statistics show that in 2010 the vast majority of drug overdose deaths involved pharmaceuticals, with heroin accounting for less than 10 percent. But heroin's escalation is troubling. Last month, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder called the 45 percent increase in heroin overdose deaths between 2006 and 2010 an "urgent and growing public health crisis."

In 2007, there were an estimated 373,000 heroin users in the U.S. By 2012, the number was 669,000, with the greatest increases among those 18 to 25. First-time users nearly doubled in a six-year period ending in 2012, from 90,000 to 156,000.

Experts note that many users turned to heroin after a crackdown made prescription drug painkillers such as OxyContin harder to find and more costly. It's killing because it can be extremely pure or laced with other powerful narcotics. That, coupled with a low tolerance once people start using again after treatment, is catching addicts off guard.

AP

In this Monday, May 6, 2013 file photo, a drug addict prepares a needle to inject himself with heroin in front of a church in the Skid Row area of Los Angeles. The death of actor Philip Seymour Hoffman in February 2014 spotlighted the reality that heroin is no longer limited to the back alleys of American life. Once mainly a city phenomenon, the drug has spread to the country and suburbs.

Fast facts about some obstacles to heroin sobriety

Treatment facilities are packed. Inpatient rehab is costly. Insurance companies have refused coverage. Addicts looking to get clean from heroin often face an uphill battle. A look at the process, and some of the obstacles to getting sober:

■ **WITHDRAWAL:** Once in withdrawal, users feel like their bones are breaking. Fluids leak from every orifice. They sweat and get the chills and shakes. The withdrawal itself doesn't kill, but if addicts can't persevere, they often go back to heroin, with lowered tolerance, and many overdose.

■ **LACK OF BEDS:** The number of people using heroin in the U.S. nearly doubled from 2007 to 2012 to some 669,000 people, and more people are also now seeking treatment. But of the 23.1 million Americans who needed treatment for drugs or alcohol in 2012, only 2.5 million people received aid at a specialty facility. There simply aren't enough beds at treatment facilities to meet the demand. There are about 12,000 addiction treatment programs nationwide, according to the nonprofit Treatment Research Institute in Philadelphia. Of those, about 10 percent are residential facilities, about 80 percent are outpatient programs and about 10 percent are methadone clinics.

■ **INSURANCE BATTLES:** While most insurance policies state that they allow coverage of up to 30 days in a residential drug treatment center, nobody actually gets those 30 days, said Tom McLellan, CEO of the Treatment Research Institute. The average duration in residential care is 11 to 14 days.

■ **THE COST:** A 30-day inpatient stay can cost as little as $5,000, but the average cost is about $30,000. The cost of heroin detoxification alone, which usually takes three to five days, is around $3,000. Most clinics require payment upfront if insurance can't be used.

IN MINNESOTA: TAKING THE MESSAGE TO THE MASSES

The night before Valentine's Day, some 250 people filed into a church in Minnesota. There were moms and dads of addicts, as well as children whose parents brought them in hopes of scaring them away from the drug.

Dan Douglas gripped a microphone as a photograph appeared overhead on a screen: A woman in the fetal position on a bathroom floor. Then another: A woman passed out with drug paraphernalia near her face.

"You just don't win with heroin," Douglas told the crowd. "You die or you go to jail."

It was the third such forum held over two weeks in Anoka County, home to 335,000 people. Since 1999, 55 residents have died from heroin-related causes. Only one other Minnesota county reported more heroin-related deaths — 58 — and it has a population three-and-a-half times the county's size.

As prescription drug abuse rose, so, too, did increasing tracking of prescriptions and pharmacy-hopping pill seekers. Users turned to heroin. "It hit us in the face in the form of dead bodies," says Douglas.

IN OHIO: OVERDOSE ANTIDOTE HELPS SAVE SOME

Brakes screech. The hospital door flies open. A panicked voice shouts: "Help my friend!" An unconscious young man, in the throes of a heroin overdose, is lifted onto a gurney.

It's happened repeatedly at Ohio's Fort Hamilton Hospital. The staff's quick response and a dose of naloxone, an opiate-reversing drug, bring most patients back. Some are put on ventilators. A few never revive.

"We've certainly had our share of deaths," says Dr. Marcus Romanello. "At least five died that I am acutely aware of ... because I personally cared for them."

Heroin-related deaths have more than tripled in Butler County, where Hamilton is located. There were 55 deaths last year.

Romanello's hospital saw 200 heroin overdose cases last year. Overdose patients usually bounce back quickly after given naloxone, or Narcan. It works by blocking the brain receptors that opiates latch onto and helping the body "remember" to take in air.

At least 17 states and the District of Columbia allow Narcan to be distributed to the public, and bills are pending in some states to increase access to it. In Ohio, a new law allows a user's friends or relatives to administer Narcan, on condition that they call emergency services.

Romanello says his patients are usually relieved and grateful by the time they leave his hospital. "They say, 'Thank you for saving my life,' and walk out the door. But then, the withdrawal symptoms start to kick in."

IN OREGON: A FORMER ADDICT FIGHTS BACK

David Fitzgerald is a former addict who leads a mentor program at a rehab clinic in Portland, Oregon.

Heroin cut a gash through the Pacific Northwest in the 1990s. Then prescription pills took over until prices rose. Now the percentage of those in treatment for heroin in Oregon is back up to levels not seen since the '90s—nearly 8,000 people last year—and the addicts are getting younger.

Fitzgerald's clients reflect that. In 2008, 25 percent of them were younger than 35. Last year the number went to 40 percent.

The younger addicts present a new problem—finding appropriately aged mentors to match them with. But Fitzgerald has hope in 26-year-old Felecia Padgett. Before sobriety, Padgett found herself selling heroin to people younger than herself. Using heroin, she says, was like "getting to touch heaven."

Padgett herself is still in recovery. But she, and others like her, may play a crucial role in confronting the problem.

"A lot of them aren't ready at a younger age," Fitzgerald says. "The drug scene, it's fast ... it's different. It's harder than it was."

5 things to know about heroin use, getting help

Long a scourge of the back alleys of American life, heroin is spreading across the country. The death of actor Philip Seymour Hoffman in February only underscored a problem many American communities already were combatting: the rising use of—and deaths from—heroin. Here are five things to know about this issue.

1 RISING USE IN RECENT YEARS
The number of past-year heroin users in the U.S. has risen from 373,000 in 2007 to 669,000 in 2012, according to the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, or SAMHSA.

2 OVERDOSE DEATHS WORRY DOJ
Overdose deaths involving heroin rose 45 percent between 2006 and 2010, according to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder recently described the problem as "an urgent and growing public health crisis," as he called for more first responders to carry an antidote that can reverse the effects of a heroin overdose. But federal statistics also show that in 2010, heroin accounted for less than 10 percent of all drug overdose deaths.

3 STARTING "OLDER"
The average age for those using heroin for the first time was 23, according to a 2012 national survey sponsored by SAMHSA. In contrast, it was about 18 for marijuana, 19 for LSD and 20 for cocaine.

4 HARDER TO FIND
Heroin is considered much more difficult to obtain than other drugs for younger people. In 2012, nearly half of those 12 to 17 in the national SAMHSA survey said it would be "fairly easy" or "very easy" for them to get marijuana. Only about 1 in 10 said heroin would be that readily available. The 2012 survey also found that from 2002 to 2012, all drugs—marijuana, cocaine, crack, LSD and heroin—became less available. In that 10-year period, the availability of heroin fell from nearly 16 percent to 10 percent.

5 HOTLINES AND HELP
The Partnership at Drugfree.org has a toll-free helpline —1-855-378-4373 (DRUGFREE)—that offers assistance to families concerned about a teen's drug use or drinking. Trained specialists can help parents outline plans for prevention, intervention and other services. They also can direct parents to local and national resources. The English-Spanish helpline is open Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 6:00 p.m. Eastern time. SAMHSA has a 24-hour hotline—1-800-662-HELP (4357)—and a directory of more than 11,000 alcohol and drug addiction treatment facilities and programs at http://www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov.

AP

This photo released on Friday, Dec. 20, 2013 by the Massachusetts State Police shows some of the 1,250 packets of heroin labeled "Obamacare" and "Kurt Cobain" which state police troopers confiscated during a traffic stop in Hatfield, Mass.

Campus Life

Parents invited to Summer Academy info session on Friday

Parents of high school seniors and juniors are invited to participate in an information session on Friday, April 11, 2014, to learn about the Summer Academy organized by College Access Challenge Grant Program at the Northern Marianas College.

The Summer Academy affords high school students an opportunity to gain meaningful college experience while they are earning transferable college credits. The academy familiarizes students with college life while they are still in high school and can be an excellent way to help students prepare for their eventual transition to college after graduation.

In addition to college level work, participants of the Summer Academy will also receive college advising, academic tutoring, and college-preparatory and life skills training.

The program is fully funded by the College Access Challenge Grant, which aims to increase the number of underserved and minority students who are enrolling in College. To do this, the CACG provides a scholarship award of $1,000 to eligible students to cover the cost of their courses.

The info session for parents will be held on April 11, 2014, from 5pm to 8pm at Room D1 (across NMC Bookstore) at NMC's As Terlaje Campus. Parents of high school seniors and juniors are strongly encouraged to participate and to meet with representatives of the CACG program to learn more about the Summer Academy.

The agenda for the sessions will include a discussion of the Summer Academy Experience, the early admissions process, financial aid opportunities, and other important topics.

The Summer Academy for students will run from June 30, 2014, through Aug. 8, 2014. Although classes for the Summer Academy will be held at NMC's As Terlaje campus, some activities will be located off-campus and will be announced in advance. Eligibility for participation in the Summer Academy is based on family income and the ability to meet NMC admissions and financial aid requirements.

Parents of high school seniors who plan on attending the info session on Friday should bring their most recent tax documents (1040). Representatives from the Financial Aid Office will be on hand to assist with the FAFSA.

For more information about the info session for parents or the Summer Academy for students, contact Christine Inos at 234-5498 Ext. 6782 or email christine.inos@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Two MBA students make it to NFL nationals

Students of Marianas Baptist Academy gave outstanding performances at the Regional National Forensic League competition held at Marianas High School last March 29, 2014. Two of the school's winners, Alina Ishikawa and Kanata Omori, both senior students, qualified for the NFL nationals that will be held on June 15-20, 2014, in Kansas. The two will join other winners from different high schools to represent the CNMI at the nationals.

ALINA ISHIKAWA

- 1st Place: Dramatic Interpretation,
- 1st Place: Poetry
- 3rd Place, Storytelling

KANATA OMORI

- 2nd Place, U.S. Extemporaneous
- 5th Place, Commentary
- 5th Place, Duo Interpretation

JOHN KIM

- 3rd Place, Foreign Extemporaneous
- 3rd Place, Commentary
- 3rd Place, Impromptu

ROBERT SOLIS

- 5th Place, U.S. Extemporaneous
- 6th Place, Impromptu

JOHN LEE

- 5th Place, Duo Interpretation

EMILY AN

- 6th Place, Poetry

YUI ITO

- Semifinalist in Original Oratory, Poetry, and Prose

Coach: Ellen Alejo

Regional winners pose with their coach, Eleonor Alejo. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

National qualifiers Alina Ishikawa and Kanata Omori. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The winners have their picture taken with coach Eleonor Alejo, Gospel Trinidad, and Manuel Castro CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

More than just a walk for Hopwood Jr. High

By CATHRINE ROQUE and MIGUEL ANINON
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

On Thursday, March 20, 2014, the Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Junior High School held its second successful PTSA sponsored walk-a-thon. The walk-a-thon was held at our school's soccer field and was followed by a set of games for our students, something we like to call "The Hungry Games!"

We started off this event by having the teams all gather around the soccer field. The field came alive as each team wore their team colors and spirit. Then, Mr. Barcinas, our school principal, gave some encouraging opening remarks. With that, we all together started the five laps or 1.25 miles around the field as one *Hilitai* family.

All students, beforehand, were given their walk-a-thon pledge forms, and they spent two weeks aggressively collecting pledges from their aunties, uncles, and friends. Prizes were given to the top three collectors, and were recognized for their hard work!

Shortly afterwards, when the students were cooling off and getting rehydrated, Team StuCo began their preparations for The Hungry Games! Cones, markers, and boundaries, were set to guide players along the tasks. Representatives of every team competed in the following events: football throw, pink ball throw, kick away, three-point shootout, free throw, 50 meter dash, and 100 meter dash! A whole set of active and healthy competition certainly brought out the best of the best from our school community!

We interviewed our very own StuCo president, Chloe Salvosa, and we asked her, "What preparations did Team StuCo make for this event?" She stated that a huge credit goes out to Mr. Jones "for guiding us in planning all the games. We worked together in getting everything done, and I'm glad on how it turned out in the end!"

Carlo Prado, a representative from Team A, participated in the 3-point shootout. He says, "I was really pressured, but it was really fun." We asked him, "Should our school do this again?" And he said, "Yes we should. It really brought our school together."

The champion of the Hungry Games was none other than Team E, which finished with 295 points! Second place was Team D, with 285 points, and third was Team G with 260 points!

A special Hilitai thank you goes out to all the teachers, parents, and students who helped make this event a huge success. Our school managed to raise $2,083.43! Again, thank you all for promoting health and wellness at Admirable Herbert G. Hopwood Junior High School. Keep it up *Hilitais*!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas International School students who participated at the recent Thespian and NJFL Competitions.

2 NMIS students to represent NMI in Thespian nationals

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas International School's Kristine Kate P. Fajardo and Kassandra Myka R. Villegas flank their coach, Katherine "Kathy" Barja.

Northern Marianas International School's Kristine Kate P. Fajardo and Kassandra Myka R. Villegas placed first in Duet Acting and will represent the CNMI in the International Thespian Society in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Although Fajardo placed first in Monologue, she will not represent the CNMI in Nebraska for the said event because she also won first place in Duet Acting with Villegas. They will represent the CNMI in Duet Acting instead.

Fajardo and Villegas both received an accomplished rating, which is a requirement for the participants to be able to go to the nationals and represent the CNMI.

Katherine "Kathy" Barja coaches the NMIS Thespians and NJFL. Barja also coached Myka's sister, Kyle Villegas, who won Monologue and represented the CNMI in Lincoln, Nebraska, last year.

KRISTINE FAJARDO
- 1st place, Monologue
- 1st place, Duet Acting

MYKA VILLEGAS:
- 1st place, Duet Acting
- 3rd place, Monologue

CURTIS MOSTALES: 4th place Monologue

MAVERICK IRANG: 5th place Monologue

CHRISTIAN ALDAN: 4th place Duet Acting

CANDICE ALDAN: 4th place Duet Acting

Congratulations to the following students for qualifying in the Regional National Jr. Forensic League:

DEIRDRE ROSETE: Prose, Poetry, and Dramatic Interpretation

MYKA VILLEGAS: Duo and Prose

KRISTINE FAJARDO: Duo and Prose

DONDI FERRER: Story Telling and Duo

MAVERICK IRANG: Duo and Prose

YLAC CARACUT: Duo and Story Telling

CURTIS MOSTALES: Duo and Story Telling

XIAO QIAN: Impromptu and Prose

CANDICE ALDAN: Impromptu and Original Oratory

Thank you to all the NMIS teachers, administration, and staff who helped and judged in the Thespian and NJFL Competitions and to the parents. Without them, we will not win and succeed. Thank you for all the support.

Life & Style

A monthlong celebration of poetry

April is National Poetry Month, a monthlong, national celebration of poetry established by the Academy of American Poets as a way to increase awareness and appreciation of poetry in the United States. To mark the occasion, Tinian English teacher Joseph Connolly submitted the following poems for publication:

Here are two sonnets on grading and one on learning poetry in summer school. The word 'grade' comes from the Latin 'gradus.' I wonder how many teachers have ever heard students say, "Grade us." Grading papers for teachers is an omnipresent task. The methods we use are in constant flux depending on the assignment, type of quiz/test, and au courant philosophies. In 2007, while teaching English in the fifth largest school district in the nation, a "Repair Kit for Grading" consisting of 102 pages was distributed to us teachers employed there. I wondered whether the writers ever tried using it themselves or wished to have it used on them for grading their work? Summer school, for those students who grudgingly attend, is usually just a matter of killing time until the bell rings. Enjoy the poems.

INSTRUCTIONAL GRADING STAGES - 102 PAGES - a sonnet on it

if in daily practice you're using summative form
while you may be close or just about getting there
the 'Repair Kit for Grading" says you're getting warm
as you determine grades from your teacher's chair

emphasize recent achievement, the later the better
in developmental learning - which in time will grow
your scholars may still be behind the ears wetter
more opportunities to try will put them in the know

in the role of assessors as your students evolve
let them play more roles in the process of grading
let them find a way that they all can involve
themselves in those worksheets they're all trading

and just when you thought your grading was all through
start rereading Quality Assessment, # of pages? 102

P.O.E.M.—p.OORLY o.RGANIZED e.VIDENCE m.ATRIX

do not,do not do that, do not do this
best not try and guess what is meant
guarantee you will find grading amiss
using anything less than quality assessment

refrain from organizing info (in grading student souls)
by summarizing assessment records into a single grade
organize evidence by standards and learning goals
state clear expectations—you have it made in the shade

in order to provide good grades more than fair
assign no grades based on students vs. students
to preset standards their performance compare
thus adhering to your grading jurisprudence

start and stick with high standards of quality
your grading may trend towards degrees of jollity

SUMMER SCHOOL - POETRY 222

I ask them to break a poem
and hold it up and fight
like a bird inside a net
like a clutch pressure plate
like a no seeum bug inside their ear
I say mop up the floors with it
ring out the syllable suds
dust the poem's broom
and sweep its halls
with a hickory switch
I want them to surf
across the surface of the poem
waving and riding the words ashore
but all they want to do is fry the poem
and eat the oil soaked sound
they begin eating it with a rose
to find out about love and death
and what that break up
really means for this summer

Diapers, Grandparents, Jeopardy: 3 more Boomer Sonnets

By JOSEPH B. CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

GRANDPARENTS - BOOMER SONNETS, THE 'G' LIST

Do you remember your grandparents? even grandparents-in-law?
both sides from your biological mother and dad?
Did you have special names for them? Opa, mamaw, and Papaw?
Did they always hug and comfort you when you were sad?

Did they favor an older sister or a younger brother?
Were some dead before you were born or after?
Did they give you all the same presents or one thing then another?
When they came by did you know you were in for laughter?

Are you one now? Do your grandkids live very far away?
Do you enjoy the drive to see them? like to watch them play?
Are your own kids not happy when for a week you'll stay?
Are your grandkids the smartest and cutest no matter what others say?

So Gramps, Grams, grumpy Grandpa, and gentle Grammies
Enjoy your grandkids: sleepy, shining, dirty, or in their jammies

DIAPER DITTY BAG? DEPENDS... BOOMER SONNETS, the 'D' LIST

So it's down the road with a heavy load in my diapers dear
More baby swipes and constant gripes to clean up my arrears
It won't be long till I sing that song of cowboys out on the range
Then you'll know that my backside was powdered with a change

Oh there's plastic Huggies available now for horse & man and cow
Fast and quick to cover up your buns no need to show you how
In the old days we used cotton ones held together with a diaper pin
You only needed one to get the job done unless diapering a twin

When on a horse you'll bounce of course and likewise on a bike
After a while you'll find the style of diaper riding that you like
If you don't know when you start to go just use some common sense
Just admit the fact that you've been plagued with adult incontinence

Well enough of all that chewing the fat as the daylight ends
I'll just go home, no more to roam, and change into Depends

JEOPARDY - BOOMER SONNETS, the 'J' LIST

In danger of finding out what the pain is all about
Afraid to ask the question? but what the heck
Get two diagnoses if you're still in doubt
Better than you'll get from Alex Trebec

We're all in jeopardy now in one way or the other
From head to toe old bodies feeling more and more troubled
Bad teeth, knees, something's wrong with sister and brother
Our crime? Growing older. Fear increases - jeopardy doubled

So when the MRI's and X-rays come back with prognosis made
And you know you're in danger of getting something new
Don't wait around for those swellings or aging spots to fade
Pay attention to about 50% of what the Doc tells you to do

Nothing wrong with being in danger, go outside and take a whiff
You'll find the entire country's in jeopardy teetering on a fiscal cliff

NBC boss isn't worried about Letterman successor

NEW YORK (AP)—With Jimmy Fallon doing so well as "Tonight" show host, NBC's boss expressed no fear Monday about who will replace David Letterman upon the late-night comic's planned retirement from CBS sometime next year.

Fallon "is the best and no matter who CBS puts in that place, I think he'll still be the best," NBC Universal CEO Steve Burke said.

The NBC chief said he didn't think Tina Fey or Jay Leno, two people with NBC ties who have been mentioned as potential Letterman replacements, would be in the running. Fey seems happy making movies and shows for NBC, Burke said. Fey, who made and starred in "30 Rock," has a production deal with NBC.

Former "Tonight" host Leno is still talking with NBC about a deal where he will do occasional specials, he said.

Burke

Fallon has topped the late-night ratings since taking over for Leno in February, and is particularly strong among the young audience NBC seeks. While the network was always confident in Fallon, Burke said the new host has easily exceeded expectations, and is even bringing viewers back to the 11:30 p.m. time slot.

"He has turned out to be, I think, exactly what America is looking for," Burke said.

Burke said he and his wife had dinner with Fallon during the Vancouver Olympics four years ago and left telling his wife that Fallon was someone who would be running the "Tonight" show someday. And as CEO at NBC Universal, Burke was in the position to make it happen.

"He is very unique," he said. "Whoever ends up doing the job at CBS, we wish them well. We think we'll do fine."

CBS was not talking Monday about candidates to replace Letterman, which have ranged from Stephen Colbert to Conan O'Brien to Neil Patrick Harris. The network isn't giving a timetable for when a selection will be made, and a day hasn't been for Letterman's last show, either.

Harris, an actor in the just-concluded CBS show "How I Met Your Mother" and a Tony Awards host for CBS, said Monday he hasn't had any talks about filling Letterman's chair. He is preparing for a return to Broadway in "Hedwig and the Angry Inch."

"I'm super-focused on `Hedwig' at the moment, so that hasn't even been a conversation at all," he said. "But I'm a big fan of CBS and (CBS Corp. chief) Les (Moonves), so who knows? It would be an asinine amount of work."

Mamma Mia: ABBA marks 40 years since breakthrough

AP

Swedish singer's Bjorn Ulvaeus, left, and Anni-Frid Lyngstad, of the pop group ABBA, pose on the red carpet ahead of the band's International anniversary party at the Tate Modern in central London, Monday, April 7, 2014.

LONDON (AP)—Four decades on from the flares, fame and fabulousness, the members of ABBA say they have no regrets—not even about the clothes.

Members of the Swedish supergroup marked 40 years since their international breakthrough hit "Waterloo" on Monday with a party for hundreds of guests at London's Tate Modern gallery.

Bjorn Ulvaeus said he felt "extremely proud and humbled" by decades of success that includes hit records, the stage and movie musical "Mamma Mia" and a Stockholm museum dedicated to the band.

And Frida Lyngstad said she was proud of ABBA's ultra-70s look of big boots and spangly jumpsuits, documented in a new photo book about the band.

"It was our youth, it was our time, and we decided how we wanted to dress ourselves onstage," said Lyngstad. "And it was fun."

She said some performers "are even more courageous nowadays, if you think of Lady Gaga, for example."

Lyngstad said she could not explain the global success of ABBA, which rocketed when the band won the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest with "Waterloo." The quartet's blend of poppy melodies, lush harmonies and slick arrangements helped them sell more than 400 million records around the world.

"We never had a formula," Lyngstad said. "We just did what we loved the most. And the great thing was maybe that the four of us met and started to work together the way we did. Two great songwriters, Bjorn and Benny, together with Agnetha's and my voices."

The foursome eventually fractured, with the band's two married couples—Lyngstad and Benny Andersson, Ulvaeus and Agnetha Faltskog—divorcing.

But Ulvaeus said the four of them recently met up, and "the chemistry is still there."

"We bonded instantly," he said.

So are they tempted to make fans' wishes come true with an ABBA reunion?

Lyngstad laughed. "No," she said.

Erratic B.B. King performance makes fans blue

ST. LOUIS (AP)—At 88, blues guitarist B.B. King is a living legend, a Rock and Roll Hall of Famer with his own satellite radio channel and a string of blues-themed restaurants in New York, Las Vegas and several other cities.

Slowed by age and infirmity, including diabetes, King continues to tour—with sometimes painful results. In St. Louis, some fans are singing the blues after an erratic weekend performance led to a stream of audience catcalls and early departures.

Concertgoers said King's rambling Friday night set at the Peabody Opera House featured just a handful of complete songs amid meandering musical snippets, long-winded soliloquies, an 8-piece backup band that missed its cues and a 15-minute singalong of "You Are My Sunshine."

"Is he a living legend? Absolutely. Do I love his music? You bet," said digital marketing executive Larry Goldstein, who paid $150 for a pair of tickets plus parking. "But when you're paying that type of money, you expect to see a show."

The experience at King's concert highlights an increasingly common occurrence as musicians in their 70s and 80s take the stage in front of nostalgic audiences. A recent St. Louis concert by 87-year-old rock `n' roll pioneer Chuck Berry was also marked by missed chords, forgotten lyrics and a backing band's persistent efforts to cover Berry's missteps.

AP

In this April 4, 2014 photo, B.B. King performs at the Peabody Opera House on April 4, 2014 in St. Louis, Mo.

St. Louis record store owner Tom "Papa" Ray did not attend the King concert, but said audiences should know to adjust their expectations when watching beloved musicians whose peak is well in the past.

"If your 88-year-old father or grandfather was great in a particular art or craft, and his performance was disappointing, would you heckle him?" said Ray, owner of Vintage Vinyl. "It totally saddened me to hear about that."

Brad Goodman, King's Los Angeles-based agent at William Morris Endeavor Entertainment, declined to comment through an assistant. Peabody Opera House executives and King's Las Vegas promoter did not respond to multiple interview requests.

Other recent King performances have also struck sour notes. During a November concert in North Texas, the bluesman's voice "was weak and ragged, and his trademark guitar style had dissolved into a parade of sour notes," a Dallas Morning News review said.

Woman with transgender lover is looking for family support

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm a divorced woman with grown children. I have always supported gay rights and thought of myself as straight. But a few months ago, I met a woman, "Stephanie."

We hit it off immediately, and I was shocked to learn she's a transgender woman who was born male. We have spent a lot of time together and are falling in love. Stephanie will be having surgery soon to complete the transgender process.

I have been surprised and disappointed by the lack of support from my family and friends, whom I always thought were open-minded. Some have voiced support, but have shown no interest in meeting her and seem uncomfortable hearing about her.

I'm excited about this relationship and would have thought my family and friends would be happy for me, as I have been alone for a long time. But now I find myself refraining from mentioning Stephanie in conversation.

How can I discuss her with others? We are taking things slowly and not jumping into anything, yet we can definitely see ourselves spending the rest of our lives together. We have already faced disapproving strangers and handled it well.

LOVES MY FRIEND IN OHIO

DEAR LOVES: It appears Stephanie isn't the only one in your relationship who is in transition. Both of you are, and because it is new to those around you, they may not understand it—which is why they are uncomfortable.

The fact that Stephanie is transgender should not be mentioned right off the bat. It is not the most important thing about her, and it should not be her defining characteristic. Discuss the matter with your friend and ask how she would like to be introduced and referred to. It's only logical that this will vary according to how close these people are to you.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a single mother who has had my share of heartbreak. I was with "Kent" for almost two years. We moved in together and talked often about marriage. Things were going great, but then he lost his job. After that, finding and keeping a job became harder and harder for him.

One day when I came home from work, all of Kent's clothes were gone. He said he had moved back in with his mother because he didn't feel comfortable with me paying all the bills. He assured me he still wanted to remain in the relationship, and once he could keep a steady job he'd move back.

Three months later, he broke up with me. The following week some mutual friends told me he had gotten married!

When I confronted Kent, he told me he still wants to have a sexual relationship with me. I refused and haven't spoken to him since. Yesterday I learned that I am pregnant with his child.

I am turned upside down without a clue what to do. Is it wrong to feel hatred for him?

BETRAYED IN TEXAS

DEAR BETRAYED: Under the circumstances your feelings are understandable. Now, here's what to do. Contact Kent AND his wife and tell them the "happy" news that he is going to be a father—and you expect him to shoulder all the responsibilities that go with it. Then talk to a lawyer to be sure he does.

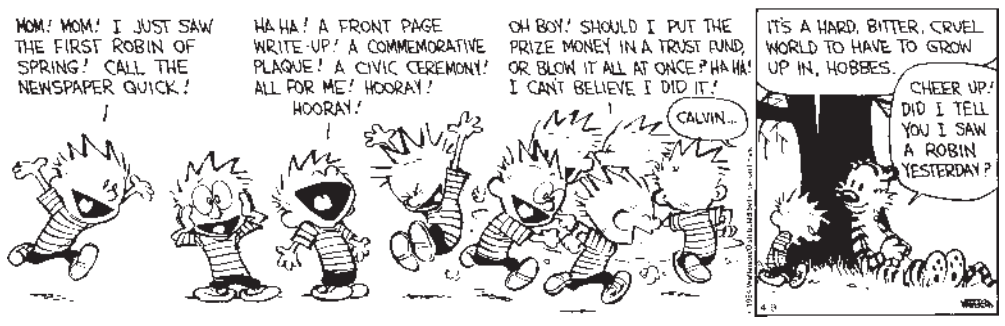
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MOM! MOM! I JUST SAW THE FIRST ROBIN OF SPRING! CALL THE NEWSPAPER QUICK!
HA HA! A FRONT PAGE WRITE-UP! A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE! A CIVIC CEREMONY! ALL FOR ME! HOORAY! HOORAY!
OH BOY! SHOULD I PUT THE PRIZE MONEY IN A TRUST FUND, OR BLOW IT ALL AT ONCE? HA HA! I CAN'T BELIEVE I DID IT!
CALVIN...
IT'S A HARD, BITTER, CRUEL WORLD TO HAVE TO GROW UP IN, HOBBES.
CHEER UP! DID I TELL YOU I SAW A ROBIN YESTERDAY?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

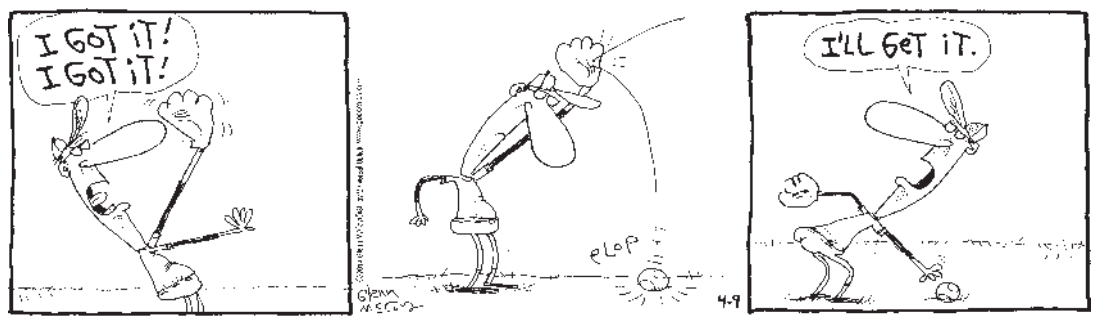
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

THIS KOMODO DRAGON COFFEE IS AMAZING. I FEEL LIKE I HAVE DRAGON POWERS.
HERE. SEE IF I CAN BREATHE FIRE.
HHHHH
ANYTHING?
NO FIRE. BUT STILL FORMIDABLE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

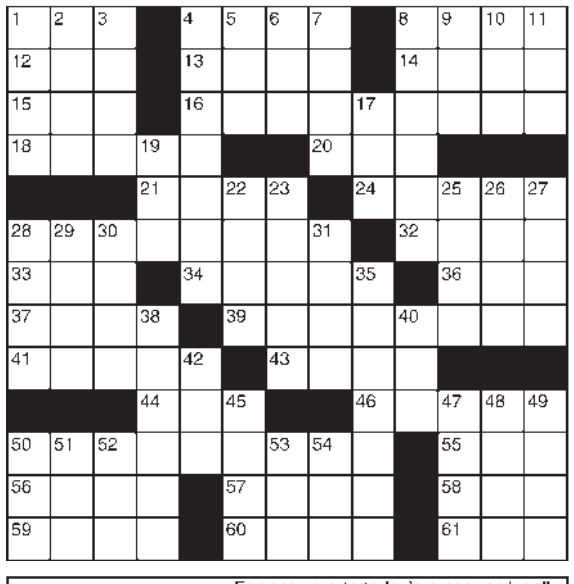
ACROSS
1 Lingerie item
4 Actor Omar
8 Get larger
12 De-pressed
13 Close up tightly
14 "Girls" creator Dunham
15 Simile center
16 Live-in nurse, perhaps
18 Missis-sippi Delta feature
20 Flop
21 Ms. Moore
24 Olym-pian's award
28 Lax
32 Un-accompa-nied
33 Actress Gardner
34 Hangout for Van Gogh and Gauguin
36 "— the ramparts ..."
37 Magic charm
39 Happy-go-lucky
41 Mops
43 Spiked club
44 Binge
46 Turkic lan-guage
50 Sexton or super
55 Pink-slip
56 Guinness or Baldwin
57 Farm-hand in "The Wizard of Oz"
58 Agent
59 Split
60 Census data
61 "May-day!"

DOWN
1 Spill the beans
2 Parks at a bus stop?
3 Vacation-ing
4 School (Sp.)
5 Shell game item
6 Golf goal
7 Coaster
8 Moves effort-lessly
9 Gun the engine
10 Indivisible
11 Combat
17 Wrigley product
19 Praise in verse
22 Hired soldier, for short
23 Moham-medanism
25 Entrance
26 Sheltered
27 Tradition-al tales
28 Rotating parts
29 Acknowl-edge
30 Eastern royal
31 Antitoxins
35 Battens down
38 Thing
40 Shriner's chapeau
42 Perched
45 Mediter-ranean strip
47 Barber-shop quartet member
48 World's fair
49 Jailer's janglers
50 Jam ingredi-ent?
51 — Baba
52 Ump
53 St. Bernard's burden
54 — out a living

Solution time: 21 mins.

J	A	R	S	■	S	O	P	S	■	C	A	B
E	R	I	K	■	W	R	A	P	■	O	B	I
D	E	B	A	T	A	B	L	E	■	N	U	T
■	■	■	T	I	P	S	■	C	A	S	T	E
H	O	V	E	L	■	■	H	I	L	T	■	■
I	D	E	S	■	F	R	E	E	F	A	L	L
P	I	G	■	B	R	E	W	S	■	B	O	O
S	E	E	D	L	E	S	S	■	C	L	I	P
■	■	T	I	E	D	■	■	D	R	E	S	S
O	B	A	M	A	■	A	L	O	E	■	■	■
J	A	B	■	T	I	M	E	T	A	B	L	E
A	L	L	■	E	H	O	S	■	S	O	I	L
I	K	E	■	D	A	R	T	■	E	X	E	S

Yesterday's answer 4-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Elle Fanning, 16; Kristen Stewart, 24; Leighton Meester, 28; Dennis Quaid, 60

Happy Birthday: Turn up the intensity. Take action and be reluctant to back away from adversity. It's your lack of control that will stand between you and your set goals. Keep your life simple so that you can direct your energy where it will bring you the results you crave the most. Choose the change instead of having it forced upon you. Your numbers are 3, 13, 19, 23, 34, 37, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take on whatever comes your way. Your go-getter attitude and creative imagination will lead to an intriguing prospect. Interaction and greater involvement with upwardly mobile people will result in a worthwhile partnership. Knowledge equals power. File away what you hear and see. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Stick to what you know and work diligently at your own speed. Avoid emotional impasses with people only interested in controlling your situation. Explore your options and you will find a way to expand your interests personally and professionally. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Explore what's being offered. Change can be good if it stimulates your mind and helps you head in a direction that promotes advancement. High energy and enthusiasm will grab attention and set you apart from any competition you face. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Let your mind wander and you'll find a unique way to make extra cash. Revamp a service you used to offer to friends or family and you'll find a way to go public. You can be helpful and benefit from your good intentions. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Emotions will surface if you experience a change of heart. Insecurity will set off uncertainty or an inability to make a move. Progressive action will bring good results. Get moving and do not look back. Don't be afraid to do things differently. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Look for ways to implement unique alternatives that will help improve the job you do, and you will receive recognition and consideration for your contribution. An impulsive purchase isn't likely to please you once you test it out. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Put your heart into whatever you do, but don't overreact if someone doesn't agree with what you are doing. Listen to advice, weigh the pros and cons, and continue to follow the path that makes you feel most comfortable. Nurture important partnerships. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make positive changes at home and follow through with creative endeavors. Expand your circle of friends to include those who share your interests. Love is on the rise and a positive twist to the way you treat someone special will benefit you. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): A professional trip or mixing business with pleasure will help you discover if a project you want to pursue is feasible or not. Share your concerns and be blunt about what you can bring to the table. Don't promise financial assistance. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Your timing is questionable. You are caught between what needs to be done and what's possible. Take a back seat and watch how someone else handles matters. Stepping in and cleaning up will be much easier and will reap rewards. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take action and you will make progress. Send out your resume or sign up for a course that will help you advance. Money matters can be addressed and a joint venture will bring all sorts of benefits. Sign contracts. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Work quietly behind the scenes. Focus on personal documentation and household needs. Love and personal relationships will improve if you set time aside to spend with a friend, lover or family member. A creative outlet will help ease stress. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are adventuresome and strong-willed. You are confident and carefree.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4	9						5	3
6		3				1		7
5			3	8	9			4
	6						8	
8			1		5			9
9								6
7			4	2	1			8
	4						2	
		8	6	7	3	9		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	8	1	5	7	9	6	4	2
6	2	7	8	3	4	1	9	5
5	4	9	2	1	6	7	3	8
8	3	4	7	6	5	9	2	1
1	7	2	4	9	8	3	5	6
9	6	5	3	2	1	4	8	7
7	5	8	1	4	3	2	6	9
2	9	3	6	5	7	8	1	4
4	1	6	9	8	2	5	7	3

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SOREL (FOOTWEAR) **Solution: 6 letters**

T	S	E	U	Q	N	O	C	S	E	C	A	L	S	W
A	N	I	U	Q	A	Y	S	E	O	H	S	O	D	H
R	E	H	T	A	E	L	G	L	A	C	Y	N	R	I
G	A	D	A	N	A	Ⓒ	U	B	Y	S	F	I	O	T
L	K	S	W	K	Ⓗ	M	U	N	G	O	T	F	F	E
A	E	C	E	Ⓘ	B	C	A	U	O	R	U	O	X	U
C	R	O	Ⓒ	I	K	M	L	R	A	E	E	T	O	L
I	S	T	A	L	F	A	P	K	L	S	I	E	H	B
E	S	I	E	U	G	R	S	B	M	E	D	I	N	A
R	N	A	A	U	E	I	A	E	F	Z	E	N	Y	T
E	G	K	H	H	K	R	D	I	L	I	R	H	L	S
T	I	C	T	A	U	N	Y	G	U	S	W	O	O	L
N	S	A	N	D	A	L	S	E	R	A	E	R	N	E
I	E	L	P	R	U	P	R	E	R	O	L	P	X	E
W	D	B	B	R	O	W	N	M	Y	G	S	D	I	K

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Yesterday's Answer: Knowledge

Treasury 12, 13, 14 or 15 can be purchased online at wonderword.universaluclick.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

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CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

Jeter, Yankees beat Orioles 4-2 in homer opener

NEW YORK (AP) — Derek Jeter gave Yangervis Solarte some assistance with Yankee Stadium tradition, then the rookie helped make the captain a winner in his final home opener Monday as New York beat the Baltimore Orioles 4-2 in the American League.

Jeter, who will retire at the end of the 2014 season, doubled high off the left-field wall and scored on Jacoby Ellsbury's single in the fifth. Hiroki Kuroda (1-1) went 6 1-3 sharp innings in the Yankees' 112th opener in New York.

Playing in his first game in the Bronx, Solarte needed Jeter to tell him to wave to the group of fans known as the Bleacher Creatures when they chanted his name during the pregame roll call.

Jeter's double-play grounder back to Orioles starter Ubaldo Jimenez (0-2) then scored Solarte in the third inning for the Yankees' first run.

Shawn Kelley pitched a perfect ninth for his first career save. After the game, the Yankees said closer David Robertson would be put on the disabled list with a strained groin.

Red Sox 5, Rangers 1

In Boston, John Lackey pitched seven strong innings and Jackie Bradley Jr. singled in two runs as Boston ended a three-game losing streak with a win over Texas.

The Red Sox never lost more than three straight last year when they won the World Series. They avoided dropping their first four home games for the first time since 1984.

Lackey (2-0) allowed an unearned run and five hits in seven innings. Chris Capuano pitched the eighth and Koji Uehara escaped a ninth-inning jam in a non-save situation.

Tanner Scheppers (0-1) allowed Bradley's run-scoring hits in the second and fourth, and Boston added three runs in the eighth.

Bradley, Mike Napoli and A.J. Pierzynski each had three singles for the Red Sox.

Royals 4, Rays 2

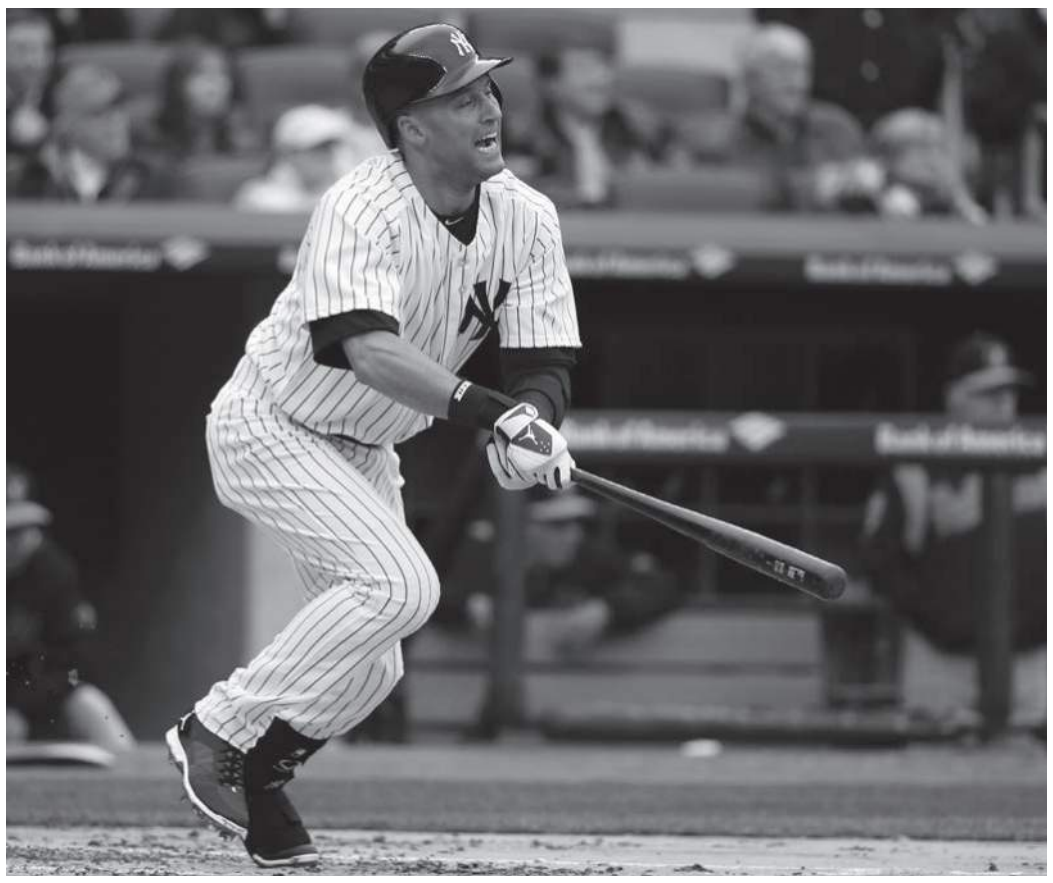
In Kansas City, Missouri, Jason Vargas took a shutout into the ninth inning and Alcides Escobar hit a three-run double as Kansas City beat Tampa Bay in a game that included two significant injuries.

Rays starter Matt Moore (0-2) came out in the fifth inning with a sore left elbow. The Major League Baseball All-Star lefty grimaced after throwing a pitch to Norichika Aoki and was immediately removed by manager Joe Maddon.

Two innings later, Royals second baseman Omar Infante was hit in the face by a pitch from reliever Heath Bell and also left the game.

Vargas (1-0) allowed four hits in eight-plus innings, lowering his ERA to 1.20 in two starts. He lost his shutout bid when Ben Zobrist homered on his second pitch in the ninth.

Greg Holland earned his third save, but not before giving up an RBI single to pinch-hitter Matt Joyce.



AP

New York Yankees' Derek Jeter hits into a third-inning, run-scoring double play in a baseball game during the Yankees home opener against the Baltimore Orioles, at Yankee Stadium in New York, Monday, April 7, 2014.

Escobar was 1 for 19 before his bases-loaded double off the left field wall with two outs in the seventh.

Evan Longoria had three hits for the Rays, who have lost seven straight in Kansas City.

Angels 9, Astros 1

In Houston, C.J. Wilson pitched eight solid innings and Howie Kendrick and Raul Ibanez each drove in three runs as Los Angeles beat Houston.

The Angels took three of four from Houston after starting the season 0-3.

Kole Calhoun homered off Houston starter Jarred Cosart (1-1).

Wilson (1-1) yielded four hits and a run while fanning seven.

Athletics 8, Twins 3

In Minneapolis, Yoenis Cespedes proved he can play through a injured right heel, giving Oakland a spark with a pair of RBIs that helped spoil Minnesota's home opener.

Cespedes, who has been hobbling around the last few days with the injury, hit a double in the second inning for the first run against Kevin Correia (0-1) and later had a sacrifice fly.

Moss added a two-run single in the third and Derek Norris homered in the sixth.

Scott Kazmir (2-0) allowed three runs and six hits.

Cardinals 5, Reds 3

In St. Louis, Michael Wacha outpitched Tony Cingrani in a rematch of young power arms and the St. Louis Cardinals got a three-run double from Yadier Molina in the first inning to beat the Cincinnati Reds in their National League home opener.

The Cardinals bunched three hits and a walk over the first five hitters to take the early lead against Cingrani (0-1), who allowed two hits in seven scoreless innings six days earlier against St. Louis at home.

Matt Holliday and Allen Craig added RBIs in the seventh.

Wacha (1-0) hadn't allowed a run in 21 career innings against the Reds before back-to-back doubles by Brayan Pena and pinch-hitter Roger Bernadina in the fifth. The NL championship series Most Valuable Player benefited from two double-play balls in six stingy innings and has permitted one run in 13 2-3 innings his first two starts.

Rockies 8, White Sox 1

In Denver, Jordan Lyles used his arm and bat to lead Colorado over the Chicago White Sox in his home debut for the Rockies.

Lyles (2-0) pitched 6 2-3 effective innings, scattering five hits and walking two. He also had a career-best three hits and drove in two runs. He joined the Rockies from Houston in a trade for Dexter Fowler last winter.

Carlos Gonzalez and Troy Tulowitzki homered for the Rockies.

Chicago right-hander Felipe Paulino (0-1) allowed six earned runs on nine hits and four walks in 4 1-3 innings in his return to Denver, where he pitched for the Rockies in 2011 before being plagued by arm troubles the last two years.

Weirdness reigns as NBA playoffs loom

MIAMI (AP)—The NBA playoffs are coming. So much for predictability.

Commence with the weirdness.

Like Indiana pulling its starters halfway through the first quarter in an embarrassing home loss. Or J.R. Smith trying an NBA-record 22 3-pointers in a loss that probably doomed New York's playoff hopes. Or Carmelo Anthony being either unable or unwilling to shoot in the fourth quarter of that game. Or Houston scoring 47 points in the second quarter before needing last-second heroics from James Harden to force overtime and beat Denver.

And all that happened on Sunday.

Every team in the NBA gets Monday off to take a breath, rest, recover—and, of course, watch Connecticut and Kentucky play for the NCAA title. After that, the sprint to the finish continues, with playoff spots still to be won in some cases and plenty of movement still possible in both the Eastern and Western Conference playoff races.

But first, more about Sunday's wildness.

■ Smith's 3-point tries added up to more than one-tenth of a mile: 561 feet worth of long-distance dialing. To put that in perspective, the total distance of LeBron James' 22 field-goal attempts on the way to his 38-point effort in Miami's 102-91 win over New York: 265 feet.

■ The Pacers were down 30 in the first half. At home. To Atlanta. "I don't think it's acceptable," Pacers coach Frank Vogel said, "for any of us."

■ San Antonio earned its 60th victory. The Spurs will almost certainly finish with the No. 1 overall seed, but why does it seem like there still isn't enough talk about them?

On to the week ahead, and five things to watch:

■■■

WADE RETURN?: Heat G Dwyane Wade went through a long pregame workout Sunday before missing his sixth straight game with a hamstring issue. The Heat are 12-1 in their last 13 games without Wade, but James looks like he could use some serious help—or a long nap—before the playoffs start. Miami plays Brooklyn on Tuesday, and the Nets are undefeated against the Heat this season.

LAKER RECORD: Since moving to Los Angeles, the Lakers organization has never endured worse than a 52-loss season. These Lakers are 25-52 with five games left, and they're running out of players. History awaits.

THUNDER-CLIPPERS: It will be worth staying up for on Wednesday night. Two of the NBA's best teams right now going at it, quite possibly with big-time implications for the No. 2 seed out West involved.

PACERS-HEAT: Friday night in Miami. This could decide the East No. 1 seed. Or might be a wrestling match. Or might see both sides resting everybody.

50,000 3s?: Four seasons ago, there weren't even 45,000 3-pointers shot in an NBA season. Think teams rely on them a bit more now? The league is on pace to crack 50,000 tries from long range this season. (Insert J.R. Smith joke here.)

Police: Wolves' Cunningham sent threatening texts

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Minnesota Timberwolves forward Dante Cunningham was arrested for a second time in three days because he sent threatening messages to a woman he was living with that "rose to a terroristic level," police said Monday.

Authorities in Medina, Minn., released the details one day after Cunningham was jailed for another alleged incident with the woman he had been living with for the previous eight months. Cunningham had already been charged with felony domestic assault for allegedly choking the woman last week.

Police said they received a call from the woman in the early morning hours on Sunday saying that Cunningham had violated a protection order by contacting her.

"When the officer arrived and reviewed the messages, they were direct and rose to a terroristic level," the police statement read.

Cunningham surrendered Sunday and turned over his cellphone and computer as part of the investigation. The Associated Press left a message with Cunningham's attorney seeking comment.

Cunningham remained in custody following his second arrest, but has not been charged. He was scheduled for an initial court appearance on Monday afternoon related to his assault charges.

The Timberwolves said Sunday they were gathering information about Cunningham's latest arrest.

"The situation with Dante Cunningham is very fluid and we continue to monitor all available information," the team said. "We reiterate that the Minnesota Timberwolves do not condone the behavior described in the accusations. We continue to wait for the legal process to run its course and will have further comment when appropriate."

He played for the Timberwolves in Orlando on Saturday night. The NBA's collective bargaining agreement requires the league and the Timberwolves to allow Cunningham to return to work while the legal process plays out.

Cunningham started against the Magic for the injured Kevin Love and had 12 points and six rebounds in 34 minutes.

In his fifth year in the league, Cunningham is averaging 6.1 points and 4.1 rebounds this season. He is set to become a free agent on July 1 after completing the final year of his contract that pays him $2.1 million this season.

Seahawks lock up coach Pete Carroll with extension

SEATTLE (AP)—The first major contract extension finalized by the Seattle Seahawks following their Super Bowl title was a commitment to coach Pete Carroll—and to an ideology that finally proved successful at the professional level.

While getting stars such as Earl Thomas and Richard Sherman locked up remains important, the focus for the Seahawks was making sure Carroll was sticking around.

"This was a huge priority for us coming into the offseason," Seattle general manager John Schneider said Friday. "We knew it was around the corner and it was, quite honestly, we're trying to take care of our own people and keep our young players together. But where do you start? You start at the top."

The Seahawks locked up Carroll through the 2016 season with a three-year extension announced Friday. The new contract rips up the final year of the original five-year deal Carroll signed in January 2010, and cleared up any uncertainty whether the 62-year-old coach wanted to stick around after his original deal expired.

Carroll is staying. So are the ideas and beliefs he brought with him when he arrived from Southern California. Back then, there was skepticism whether his style and attitude would work in the NFL.

Now, there's no question.

"Whether this came about or not I was going to keep busting it and going for it. It wasn't going to matter in that regard. But I think the statement, that they wanted to validate the commitment to what we're doing and how we're doing it, was extraordinary," Carroll said. "It was an extraordinary effort on their part and I'm just humbled and thrilled they see it that way."

AP

Seattle Seahawks NFL football head coach Pete Carroll talks to reporters during a news conference Friday, April 4, 2014, in Renton, Wash.

Carroll is 38-26 in four regular seasons with Seattle and 5-2 in the playoffs. He's the second-oldest head coach in the NFL—yet rarely acts his age—and one of seven current coaches with a Super Bowl title. The championship was a crowning achievement for Carroll after struggles in his two previous stints as an NFL head coach with the New York Jets and New England.

Carroll was lured to Seattle because of something he didn't have in his previous NFL stops: control. Seattle gave him the reins to the franchise, and hired him before adding Schneider to the mix, and creating a relationship that has been marked by stability and success.

After nearly a decade of winning with the Trojans and having say over a program, that level of control was crucial if he was going back to the professional ranks. The Seahawks were willing.

"I loved my time at USC and I was having the time of my life being part of that wonderful school and all the things that we were doing," Carroll said. "But I knew there was another challenge out there and that was coming to the league."

The challenge Carroll inherited included tearing down and rebuilding the Seahawks roster and treading water through a pair of 7-9 seasons his first two years. The breakthrough came in Year 3 when Seattle drafted Russell Wilson, who gave them stability at quarterback. Seattle went 11-5 in Carroll's third season and reached the divisional round of the playoffs.

Carroll followed that by guiding the Seahawks to 13 regular-season wins, the 2013 NFC West title and home-field advantage in the playoffs. Seattle knocked off New Orleans in the divisional round then edged San Francisco in the NFC title game before routing Denver 43-8 in the Super Bowl in February.

Part of the allure for Carroll now is Seattle's potential. The Seahawks are still young and have the likes of Wilson, Sherman, Thomas, Kam Chancellor, Percy Harvin and Michael Bennett, among others, returning from the title team.

"Fortunately we've had a pretty good little run and we're in the middle of something pretty special," Carroll said. "There's no reason that either one of us think, `OK, we did this one time and that was it and that was our shot.' We think we're right in the middle of a great opportunity here."

Chris Johnson done in Tennessee

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The CJ2K era is over in Tennessee, just the latest step by the Titans in their franchise makeover.

The Titans told Chris Johnson they are releasing him Friday after six seasons to avoid paying $8 million the running back is due in 2014, along with the final three seasons left on the $53.5 million contract he signed in September 2011. His release comes before the Titans start their offseason program Monday with new coach Ken Whisenhunt.

General manager Ruston Webster said the Titans thank Johnson for his contributions, setting so many franchise records and being durable over his six seasons with Tennessee.

"We have had an open dialogue with Chris' agent, Joel Segal, over the last few weeks, and we appreciate the patience and professionalism they have shown throughout this process," Webster said in statement. "We made an effort to trade Chris but were unable to do so."

The Titans have been busy working to replace Johnson, who turns 29 in September. They agreed with Dexter McCluster on a three-year deal at the start of free agency after signing Shonn Greene in March 2013. The Titans also re-signed Jackie Battle recently, along with reaching a one-year deal for kick returner and running back Leon Washington on March 11.

Adding another running back in the May draft also is expected.

It didn't help that Johnson repeatedly said he wouldn't take a pay cut. The Titans didn't face a deadline that would have guaranteed the $8 million Johnson was due in 2014 until the first week of the regular season, but Johnson planned to report for the start of the offseason program Monday.

He flew into Nashville late Thursday night to meet with the Titans on Friday.

"I'd like to thank all of my teammates, the fans, the staff and the coaches who have supported me throughout my journey with the Titans," Johnson said in a statement." I have grown so much as an individual and as teammate over the past few years, and I am excited about the opportunity to bring my experience and talents to a new organization. I'm looking forward to the next chapter and can't wait to contribute to my new team."

Johnson got that big contract in 2011 after holding out through the preseason, calling himself a playmaker who deserved to be paid. He does have the most touchdown runs of 80 yards or longer in NFL history with six - twice the total of anyone else in a group including Adrian Peterson, Barry Sanders and O.J. Simpson. He also has 12 career TD runs of at least 45 yards, trailing only Sanders (18) and Jim Brown (13) in that category.

He is just the sixth player to rush for 1,000 yards in each of his first six seasons, along with Sanders, Curtis Martin, LaDainian Tomlinson, Eric Dickerson and Corey Dillon.

But Johnson has fallen far short of the 2,006-yard season he posted in 2009, the sixth man to rush for at least 2,000 yards. He earned the nickname CJ2K for such exploits, but last season he went until the final game to top 1,000 and finished with 1,077 yards - the second lowest total of his career. He also had a career-low 3.9-yard average.

He was at his best catching 42 passes for 345 yards with four TDs, including a long of 66 yards.

Greene, speaking on SiriusXM radio Friday, called Johnson a great teammate he had hoped would be back. Greene credited Johnson with teaching him a lot.

"I still think he has a lot more, and he's going to prove that," Greene said.

The Titans have been remaking the franchise this offseason since owner Bud Adams died in October. His son-in-law, Tommy Smith, took over as president, and the Titans fired coach Mike Munchak in January. Whisenhunt was hired to get this franchise back into the playoffs after a five-year drought, and he kept Sylvester Croom as the Titans' running backs coach.

Durability remains Johnson's best attribute. The 24th pick overall in 2008 out of East Carolina, Johnson has never missed a game because of injury. He had surgery after the season to repair a torn meniscus that he played with most of the year.

Saints agree to terms with Champ Bailey

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Champ Bailey will get to chase a Pro Bowl record and another Super Bowl appearance with the New Orleans Saints.

The veteran cornerback agreed to a two-year contract with the Saints on Friday, with a maximum value that approaches $7 million, including guaranteed money and a signing bonus in the first year.

The 35-year-old Bailey played the last 10 seasons with Denver after spending his first five in the NFL with Washington. A shutdown cornerback for much of his career, Bailey has made three All-Pro teams and been selected to 12 Pro Bowls. He trails only Hall of Fame end Reggie White (13) among defensive players in NFL history in Pro Bowls

Bailey's 52 interceptions are the most among active players, as are his 204 passes defensed. He made the league's All-Decade team for 2000-09.

"We are excited to be able to add a future Hall of Fame player with the addition of Champ Bailey," Saints general manager Mickey Loomis said. "His career accomplishments mirror that of his high character, and he's a very prideful and competitive player who we believe will add to our defense."

Bailey missed 11 games because of a left foot sprain originally suffered in the 2013 preseason, which wound up being a Lisfranc injury, one of the most painful for an athlete.

He returned late in the season to help the Broncos advance to the Super Bowl, where they were routed by Seattle.

His coverage skills clearly are not what they were in his prime, but he will add leadership and savvy to the Saints' secondary that is undergoing a transformation following the release of strong safety Roman Harper and the loss of free safety Malcolm Jenkins, who signed with Philadelphia as a free agent.

"I have a little more to my game, I believe, especially mentally," Bailey said on the Saints' official website. "I can see things a lot easier, a lot of things come up that I've had experience with. That only helps your game. I'm using that to my advantage as much as possible because I know how much you've got to be mentally ready for this, as well as physically ready.

"I just like the situation I'm going into because I know these guys are going to be hungry."

New Orleans also may lose safety Rafael Bush, an unrestricted free agent who on Thursday signed an offer sheet from the Atlanta Falcons. New Orleans has until April 8 to match that offer and keep Bush, but the Saints have been operating with minimal salary cap space, which will only be squeezed further by bringing in Bailey.

A versatile player who saw action on offense, defense and special teams at Georgia, Bailey was drafted with the seventh overall pick in 1999 by Washington. He was dealt to Denver in 2004 for running back Clinton Portis.

TAN

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third one.

Wild Bill's goal total after 13 games this season is 38, the second most in Division 1.

KFAS 1, MP United 1

Korean Football Association on Saipan had the second most goals so far in the spring season with its 48 after getting one in a standoff game against MP United.

Jae Whan Rhee nailed the lone goal for KFAS and his shot in the 16th minute gave the team the temporary lead after the first half. KFAS hung on to the shaky lead in the first few minutes of the second period before Zhi Peng Lim hit the equalizer in the 50th minute.

With the draw, KFAS remained in third place in the team standings with its 10-2-4 card, while MP United is at fifth spot with its 5-1-8 slate, behind Inter Godfather's (8-2-5).

Shirley's 3, Sun Palace 1

In the lone Division 2 game last Sunday, Shirley's FC topped Sun Palace to take the driver's seat in the four-team field.

Panapa Peteru, Kosuke Sato, and Toshiaki Satake contributed one goal apiece for Shirley's, which now has an 11-1-5 record, one win ahead of erstwhile leader Thudercats (10-3-3). Shirley's three goals last Sunday brings its total to a division best 51, five more than the Thundercats.

Sun Palace has 32 so far after getting its lone goal last Sunday from Hoin Ryu. Sun Palace, which is in third place with its 7-2-7 record, avoided a shutout when Ryu scored in four minutes before the game wrapped up.

Shirley's triumph over Sun Palace allowed the former to bounce back from a 1-4 loss to the Thundercats last Wednesday.

Makani Gramlich and Thomas Lee fired one goal apiece for the Thundercats in the first half, while Timothy Tawanpiy put the finishing touches on the team's easy win with his back-to-back goals in the second period. Jack Phan registered the lone goal for Shirley's.

NAPIER

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(29-11) trim the deficit to one with 8:13 left. But Aaron Harrison, who pulled out wins with clutch 3-pointers in Kentucky's last three games, missed a 3 from the left corner that would've given the Cats the lead. Kentucky never got that close again.

One key difference in a six-point loss: Kentucky's 11 missed free throws—a flashback of sorts for coach John Calipari, whose Memphis team blew a late lead against Kansas after missing multiple free throws in the 2008 final. The Wildcats went 13 for 24. UConn went 10 for 10, including Lasan Kromah's two to seal the game with 25.1 seconds left.

Calipari said he decided not to foul at the end "because they're not missing."

"These kids aren't machines. They're not robots. They're not computers," Calipari said. "I say it again: I wish I had an answer for them later in the game where I could have done something to just click it to where we needed it to go. That 3 in the corner, if that would have gone, maybe the game changes a little bit, but it didn't."

In all, Calipari's One and Doners got outdone by a more fundamentally sound, more-seasoned group that came into this tournament a seventh-seeded afterthought but walked away with the program's fourth national title since 1999. They are the highest seed to win it all since Rollie Massimino's eighth-seeded Villanova squad in 1985.

Napier now goes down with Kemba Walker, Emeka Okafor, Rip Hamilton, Ray Allen and all those other UConn greats. This adds to the school's titles in 1999, 2004 and 2011.

"It puts him right up there with all the great guards that came through the university," Hamilton said. "The one thing—we have a legacy of producing great guards, and showing up at the right time, and he displayed it again."

A year ago, the Huskies were preparing for their first season in the new American Athletic Conference after the Catholic Big East schools decide to form a smaller league and none of the so-called power conferences invited UConn. Calhoun left and the program was turned over to the inexperienced Ollie. Most damaging, though, was the NCAA ban that triggered an exodus of five key players to the NBA or other schools.

Ollie didn't give up on the guys who stuck around. He figured out how to make their grit, court sense and loyalty pay off.

"From the beginning, coach Ollie told us that we have a chance to be on top if we worked hard," Napier said. "He always told us that. We always knew that the words were: `If we work hard."

They did Monday, and stayed one step ahead of Kentucky all night, holding off furious rally after furious rally.

Kentucky's biggest push started when James Young (20 points, seven rebounds) posterized Amida Brimah with a monster dunk to start a three-point play and trigger an 8-0 run.

In the middle of that, Boatright, who shut down Harrison's twin brother, Andrew, most of the night, twisted his left ankle while receiving an innocuous-looking pass from Napier. He called a timeout. Got it worked on and came back out.

"I've got a lot of heart and I wasn't coming out," Boatright said. "We put in too much work all year for me to give up on an ankle sprain."

Napier and Niels Giffey made 3s on UConn's two possessions after the timeout, and that one-point lead was back up to five—fairly comfortable by this tight, taut, buzzer-beating tournament's standards.

The big question in Kentucky is what will happen to all those freshmen. Julius Randle (10 points, six rebounds) is a lottery pick if he leaves for the NBA. Young and the Harrison brothers could be first-rounders, too.

On the UConn side, Napier is a more marginal prospect.

On the final night of this unpredictable college basketball season, though, that really wasn't the point.

"It's not about going to the next level, it's not about going to the pros, but playing for your university, playing for your teammates," Giffey said. "And I'm so proud of all the guys on this team that stuck with this team."

HUSKIES

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find ways to win when told they had no chance.

They did it in 2011, when Kemba Walker led a group of supposed-overachievers to the program's third national title.

No. 4 was a tougher road: Coach Jim Calhoun retired in 2012, five players left the program and the Huskies were barred from the 2013 NCAA tournament for academic reasons.

They managed to win even without the prospect of playing in the postseason, earning 20 victories last season, their first under coach Kevin Ollie.

Given little chance of success, they turned heads with nine straight wins to open this season, then turned sour after being blown out by Louisville and losing to the Cardinals again in the American Athletic Conference final.

Even after busting brackets by reaching the championship game as a No. 7 seed, the Huskies were still underdogs, supposedly overmatched by all those genetically-gifted `Cats.

Instead, UConn showed off its athleticism early, jumping out to a 15-point first-half lead behind its dynamic duo of Shabazz Napier and Boatright.

Napier had 15 points by halftime and Boatright had the highlight, dribbling toward the sideline, spinning around with turn-on-a-dime 180 and scoring on a reverse layup—a move that was, yes, quite athletic.

"We wanted to keep on getting up floor and keep on running and running, and guys are not ready for that, get tired and get winded," said Napier, the Final Four Most Outstanding Player after scoring 22 points. "We definitely were ready for that."

Soon after that, though, Kentucky flexed its fast-twitching muscles with a flurry of steals, breakaways and 3-pointers.

That once-big lead was down to four at halftime, one after Aaron Harrison hit a 3-oointer on the first shot of the second half.

Surely now the Wildcats would race away from the Huskies.

No chance.

Every time Kentucky made a run, tried to wrest the lead away, UConn counterpunched, knocking them back.

There were still some oohs and ahhs for the Wildcats, particularly when James Young soared in for a vicious tomahawk dunk that turned Amida Brimah into Amida Brim-ow!

The Huskies had a few moves of their own. Boatright scored on step-back jumpers despite turning his ankle in the second half, Napier on drives to the basket and one long 3-pointer, Niels Giffey with a couple of key offensive rebounds and a pair of 3s himself.

UConn closed it out by wearing the Wildcats out and holding its own on the board. The rebound count went UConn 34, Kentucky 33.

Conditioning has been a huge emphasis in Storrs since Calhoun was coach and remained that way once Ollie took over, practices filled with lung-burning drills.

So when the Huskies hit the gas down the closing stretch, Kentucky couldn't keep up, sending UConn to another improbable title. The Huskies became the first team to win the tournament after going to overtime in its first game since North Carolina State made its unlikely run to a championship in 1983.

"Somebody told me we were Cinderellas and I was, like no, we're UConn," Ollie said. "This is what we do. We are born for this. We're bred to cut down nets. We're not chasing championships. Championships are chasing us."

And the Huskies seem to be in the lead.

KENTUCKY

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Instead, the lead swelled to six when DeAndre Daniels scored at the other end for UConn, and the Wildcats never had a chance to get within a single possession the rest of the way.

Making it all the more frustrating: UConn was 10 for 10 from the line.

Asked whether that decided the game, Kentucky's Aaron Harrison replied, "Maybe so."

So instead of Calipari's latest bunch of one-and-done stars cutting down the nets during "One Shining Moment," it was UConn joyously romping around the court inside AT&T Stadium, the confetti falling from the rafters as Kentucky players filed slowly toward their locker room.

Their free throw struggles immediately brought back memories of the 2008 title game, when a Memphis team coached by Calipari struggled down the stretch against Kansas.

In that game, the Jayhawks fouled the poor-shooting Tigers when they had to rally late in regulation. Memphis responded by missing four of its final five free throws. And that was enough for Kansas to overcome its big deficit and ultimately win the game in regulation.

During that stretch before OT, Kansas made all of its shots - including its free throws.

Asked whether it entered Calipari's mind, he replied flatly: "No."

UConn was just as maddeningly efficient as Kansas at the line, though, making the troubles of Kentucky all the more glaring: The Huskies never missed, and their final two free throws by Lasan Kromah with 25 seconds left sealed their fourth national championship.

James Young was 8 of 9 from the foul line for Kentucky, and finished with 20 points. But the rest of the team was 5 for 15, including lousy shooting from Julius Randle (4 of 7) and fellow big man Dakari Johnson, who was 1 of 4 the line.

It wasn't just the misses that hurt the Wildcats, either. It was their inability to get there.

Their best foul shooters, twin guards Aaron and Andrew Harris, only made it to the line once - Aaron missed the attempt. They were hounded all night by UConn guards Shabazz Napier and Ryan Boatright, who prevented them from getting to the rim like they had all tournament.

The Wildcats, who were seeking their ninth national championship, shot 68 percent from the foul line for the season, and had only shot worse than they did in the national championship three times—twice overcoming their poor efforts to squeeze out victories.

None of those teams were UConn, though. And none of those games for the national championship.

"Tough way to go out but at the same time, we proved a lot of people wrong," Johnson said. "We just had a great season and obviously we would have wanted to be on the other end the last game. We just had a tremendous season and we shouldn't feel down."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	45	32	.584	–
x-Brooklyn	42	34	.553	2½
New York	33	45	.423	12½
Boston	23	54	.299	22
Philadelphia	17	60	.221	28

Southeast Division

y-Miami	53	23	.697	–
x-Washington	40	37	.519	13½
x-Charlotte	39	38	.506	14½
Atlanta	34	42	.447	19
Orlando	22	55	.286	31½

Central Division

y-Indiana	53	25	.679	–
x-Chicago	45	32	.584	7½
Cleveland	31	47	.397	22
Detroit	28	49	.364	24½
Milwaukee	14	63	.182	38½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

y-San Antonio	60	17	.779	–
x-Houston	51	25	.671	8½
Dallas	47	31	.603	13½
Memphis	45	32	.584	15
New Orleans	32	45	.416	28

Northwest Division

y-Oklahoma City	55	21	.724	–
x-Portland	50	28	.641	6
Minnesota	38	38	.500	17
Denver	33	44	.429	22½
Utah	24	53	.312	31½

Pacific Division

y-L.A. Clippers	55	23	.705	–
Golden State	48	29	.623	6½
Phoenix	46	31	.597	8½
Sacramento	27	50	.351	27½
L.A. Lakers	25	52	.325	29½

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	4	3	.571	–
Tampa Bay	4	4	.500	½
Boston	3	4	.429	1
Toronto	3	4	.429	1
Baltimore	2	5	.286	2

Central Division

Detroit	4	1	.800	–
Cleveland	3	3	.500	1½
Kansas City	3	3	.500	1½
Chicago	3	4	.429	2
Minnesota	3	4	.429	2

West Division

Seattle	4	2	.667	–
Oakland	4	3	.571	½
Houston	3	4	.429	1½
Los Angeles	3	4	.429	1½
Texas	3	4	.429	1½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Miami	5	2	.714	–
Atlanta	4	2	.667	½
Washington	4	2	.667	½
Philadelphia	3	3	.500	1½
New York	2	4	.333	2½

Central Division

Milwaukee	4	2	.667	–
Pittsburgh	4	2	.667	–
St. Louis	4	3	.571	½
Chicago	2	4	.333	2
Cincinnati	2	5	.286	2½

West Division

San Francisco	5	2	.714	–
Los Angeles	5	3	.625	½
Colorado	4	4	.500	1½
San Diego	2	4	.333	2½
Arizona	2	7	.222	4

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Typhoon strikes Tigers, 31-11

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Tinian Sports Association Typhoon pose for a group photo before playing against the Tigers in the Major division of the 2014 Tinian Little League Baseball late last month.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tinian Sports Association Typhoon crushed the Tigers, 31-11, in the Major division of the 2014 Tinian Little League Baseball late last month at the Tinian Ballfield.

With the big win, the Typhoon snapped its two-game losing skid and handed the Tigers their first loss in three matches. The Typhoon earned the blowout after winning the second-inning exchange against the Tigers. The visiting team was ahead by only three, 6-3, after one complete inning when it racked up 10 runs at the top of the second for a promising 16-3 advantage.

Two homers highlighted the Typhoon's second-inning assault with B.J. Gonzales making the first home run and bringing in two runners with him. Sir Lashu Dela Cruz also blasted a two-run homer in the pivotal inning. The Typhoon got five more runs in the second at bat of its top of the order and had three players—Dela Cruz, Dre Lizama, and Malinao Palacios—making three runs each after only two innings.

The Tigers answered with only six runs at the bottom of the second off four earned runs and two from the Typhoon's miscues to still fall behind, 9-16.

The Typhoon got the six runs back and added two more as it continued to strike in the third inning. Dela Cruz and Eron Borja hit RBI singles at the top of the third, while the Typhoon notched the six other runs off passed balls, wild pitches, and RBI walks to regain the twin-digit lead, 23-9.

At the bottom of the third, the Tigers were tamed, failing to reach home plate. Borja, who was the Typhoon's starting pitcher, struck out three Tigers batters and walked two in the third inning. With Borja's steady game from the mound at the top of the third, the Tigers could only advance to second base.

The Typhoon went on to secure the early win via 10-run mercy rule after four innings, as it collected eight more runs at the top of the fourth, while the Tigers countered with only two runs. Palacios, Dela Cruz, and Borja delivered the killer blows in the fourth with their RBI singles, while Lana King stole plates three times to add another un for the Typhoon. The four other runs came off the Tigers' defensive lapses.

Dela Cruz had a perfect performance from the plate in the lopsided win, going 4-for-4. He also logged four RBIs, four runs, and one double. Lizama had the most runs for the Typhoon with five, while two others added four each, and four contributed three each.

The Typhoon had 10 players suiting up against the Tigers with Jared King, Leo Epity, Chris King, and Karl Litulimar completing the roster.

Castro gets another win in XTERRA relay

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, biker Erico Castro, swimmer Angel Marie Tan, and runner Cesar Danao pose with their first place medals during the awards ceremony for the 2014 XTERRA Saipan Championship at the Pacific Islands Club last Saturday night.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Youth biker Erico Castro and his new teammates ruled the relay division of last Saturday's 2014 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

Castro, swimmer Angel Marie Tan, and runner Cesar Danao finished the 1.5-kilometer swim, 30K bike, and 12K run race in 3:33:00, the best time among the eight relay squads that joined the championship course. Besides being the fastest team in the relay, the trio also clinched first place in the mixed division. The victory was Castro's second in a row, as last year he, swimmer Kento Akimaru, and runner Goshi Sato won over four other squads.

Tan gave the mixed team top finisher a good start when she completed the two-lap swim course in the waters off Micro Beach in 24:02. She was the first woman out of the water and 10th overall out of 62 swimmers, beating pros Jacqui Slack, Mieko Carey, Renata Bucher, and Carina Wasle.

Castro kept the pace, as his 1:58:58 was also the fastest in the relay and 29th overall. The Marianas High School student was the lone biker in the relay to finish the bike course under two hours and his about eight-minute lead over Mario Galang gave the eventual champion more than nine minutes cushion, going into the run leg of the race.

Danao posted 1:08:59 in the run leg and although it was just the third best in the division, the time was good enough to hand their team the first place overall in the relay.

Galang and Sato, who completed the trio with swimmer Victoria Chentsova, settled for a second place finish both in the mixed relay and overall after submitting 3:38:40. Chentsova timed in at 24:34 in the swim leg, the third best in the division, while Sato was the fastest in the run with his 1:06:20.

Paul Anthony had the third best time in the run in the relay with his 1:08:22 and he also did the swim leg before Cesar Fortaleza took over in the bike portion. The duo was the top finisher in the men's division and third overall after combining for 3:53:12 with Anthony recording 30:36 in the swim race and Fortaleza clocking in at 2:13:07 in the bike.

The two-man team defeated the trio of Akimaru, Samson Tan, and Manny Aaron, who tallied 3:57:41. Akimaru led all the swimmers in the relay with his 22:36, but his eight-minute lead was wiped out when Fortaleza beat Samson Tan in the bike race, as the latter posted 2:21:07. Akimaru's team went on to drop to second place in the men's division, as Aaron timed in at 1:12:58, more than three minutes behind Anthony.

Completing the finishers list in the men's division were the teams of Rommel Tiosejo, Larry Malig, and Will Schroeder (4:08:20) and Joshua Berger, Irineo Isip, and Tamio Nishikido (4:21:04).

In the women's division, the combo of Angel De Jesus, Glorybel Tan, and Maricris Galy made it to the finish line at the 4:33:09 mark to prevail against the trio of Shawna Brennfleck, Amy Slettem, and Lorie Hutchinson, who combined for 5:13:33.

Tan Holdings FC grabs M-League lead

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tan Holdings FC goalie Raphael Zapanta steps into the play to get the ball during the second half of their game against Kanoa FC in the M-League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tan Holdings FC seized the lead from Wild Bill's, following a 5-0 rout of Kanoa FC in a spring season game in the M-League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Tan Holdings improved to a 12-0-3 win-draw-loss record and, one win ahead of Wild Bill's (11-2-0). Joe Miller jumpstarted Tan Holdings' offense in last weekend's game, as he canned back-to-back goals in the first half, scoring in the 26th and 29th minute. Sean Perez made it a 3-0 halftime lead for Tan Holdings, as he found the back of the net in the 39th minute.

In the second half, it was Russell Zapanta and Kwon Pun Wong's turns to light up the scoreboard for Tan Holdings with the former hitting his target right into the second minute of the final frame and the latter scoring in the 54th minute.

With its five goals, Tan Holdings' total is now 62, the most by any squad so far in the eight-team Division 1 and the entire league.

Wild Bill's 3, Matansa 0

Though it fell to second place, Wild Bill's is still unbeaten after shutting out the winless Matansa (0-0-16) in the third game last weekend.

Both teams failed to score in the first half before Wild Bill's got into its rhythm in the second half to cruise to victory. Tyler Willsey drew first blood for Wild Bill's, getting a goal in the opening minutes of the second half. Tanapon Unsa then gave Wild Bill's its second goal at the halfway mark of the second frame, while Adul Detdon drilled the

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Jeter, Yankees beat Orioles 4-2 in homer opener

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Seahawks lock up coach Pete Carroll with extension

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Napier brings it home for UConn

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Shabazz Napier walked slowly through the hallway of the stadium—the tears still drying, the twine from the cut-down net still hanging around his neck.

"Bittersweet. Bittersweet. Bittersweet," he said, over and over again.

Bitter because it's over. Sweet because UConn won it all after being left behind and told to go away.

Napier turned in one final masterpiece as a college player Monday night, lifting the Huskies to a 60-54 win over Kentucky's freshmen and bringing home a championship hardly anyone not wearing a UConn uniform thought was possible.

"It's unbelievable because those guys, my players, stayed with the program," coach Kevin Ollie said.

Led by 22 points from Napier, 14 points from Ryan Boatright and strong defensive games from both, the Huskies (32-8) won it all a short year after they were barred from March Madness because of academic problems. That triggered the departure of five players, and coach Jim Calhoun left because of health concerns.

For those who remained, it stoked a fire no one could put out.

"You're looking at the hungry Huskies," Napier told the crowd and TV audience as confetti rained down. "Ladies and gentlemen, this is what happens when you banned us."

UConn never trailed in the final. The Huskies led by as many as 15 in the first half and watched the Wildcats

See NAPIER on Page 26

AP

Connecticut guard Terrence Samuel, left, and guard Lasan Kromah hold the championship trophy after beating Kentucky 60-54, at the NCAA Final Four tournament college basketball championship game Monday, April 7, 2014, in Arlington, Texas.

Huskies flash athleticism in title game

AP

Connecticut guard Shabazz Napier (13) tries to control the ball as Kentucky guard Aaron Harrison (2) defends during the second half of the NCAA Final Four tournament college basketball championship game Monday, April 7, 2014, in Arlington, Texas.

By JOHN MARSHALL
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Most of the scouting reports said the same thing: Connecticut was no match for the athleticism of Kentucky and all those high-flying freshmen.

No way the Huskies stop the Wildcats inside and get out to their shooters at the same time. No chance they were going to keep them off the offensive glass. Keeping up with them on the break wasn't going to happen.

Flexing their muscles on college basketball's biggest stage, the Huskies showed they have a little athleticism of their own by outlasting Kentucky's young `Cats 60-54 to win their second national championship in four years on Monday night.

"We're tough-minded and tough physically," said UConn guard Ryan Boatright, who had 14 points. "When you try to get physical with us, we get physical right back. We're not going to back down from nobody."

The Huskies' main characteristic the past few years has been their resiliency, their ability to

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Kentucky wilts at foul line in title game loss

AP

Kentucky guard Andrew Harrison sits in the locker room after his team's 60-54 loss to Connecticut in the NCAA Final Four tournament college basketball championship game Monday, April 7, 2014, in Arlington, Texas.

By DAVE SKRETTA
AP SPORTS WRITER

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Another team coached by John Calipari was done in at that harmless strip of paint just 15 feet from the basket.

After shooting well from the free throw line much of the season, the young kids from Kentucky wilted when it mattered most Monday night. Their inability to make one of the simplest shots in basketball was a big reason why they lost 60-54 to Connecticut in the national championship game.

"Well, you could say that, but the way we started the game probably cost us the game," said Kentucky coach John Calipari, whose team found itself in an early 30-15 hole and never led.

Still, Kentucky was 13 of 24 from the foul line, and missed its final three attempts, when the game was still hanging in the balance. The last of them, a miss by Alex Poythress, would have cut the Wildcats' deficit to 56-53 with 3:47 remaining in the game.

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